

Official Magazine of the United States Gymnastics Federation

USA GYMNASTICS

September/October 1986 Volume 15, No. 2

A HOT TIME IN HOUSTON


Scott Johnson:
The Bear Necessities

Diane Simpson:
Determination Leads
to Glory

Wilborn Brings Home
Bronze

The Soviets'
Secret





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USA GYMNASTICS

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A HOT TIME IN HOUSTON

Kristin Phillips and Scott Johnson turn already hot Houston ablaze with stunning gymnastics performances.

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Scott Johnson: The Bear Necessities

Scott Johnson's storybook career boosted by returning to the basics

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The Soviets' Secret



Diane Simpson: Determination Leads to Glory



Diane Simpson costs defending champion Marina Kuzovskaya to win her first big meet

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Wilborn Brings Home Bronze

Soviet Union continues world dominance while Japco Wilborn brings home the lone U.S. medal.

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No magic involved, the Soviet Union's gymnasts are just plain-old hard workers. The proof of their dedication is demonstrated during competitions.

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The United States Gymnastics Federation (USGF) is a non-profit organization for the purpose of promoting and supporting the development of the United States Gymnastics Team, including the U.S. Olympic Gymnastics Team. Contributions and support are always welcome and tax-deductible.

USA GYMNASTICS is published bimonthly for \$2.00 by the United States Gymnastics Federation, 1000 W. Main St., Suite 100, Indianapolis, IN 46204. (Phone: 317-434-4141). This includes postage and a business reply. Subscriptions: print, U.S. \$2.00 per year; U.S. outside of office members: \$3.00 per year. All rates include one year of service. But no longer include one year of service. All rights reserved. Printed in USA.

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New Look Shaped From Reader Input

By Mike Botkin

What do you think? I thought when you opened your mailbox today, there would be something very exciting in it. But it should look very familiar to you. After all, it was because of your feedback this version of *USA Gymnastics* evolved.

Remember in your July/August 1985 issue, the one with the space cover, there was a reader survey card inside that was filled out by more than 2,000 of you? In fact, there isn't a day that has gone by since I haven't received at least one card in the mail. It was from those responses that we shaped the graphic and editorial design of this new look. So if you like it, give yourself a giant pat on the back for helping out.

It wasn't too long ago that gymnastics coaches started receiving *USGF News*. A few years later, that original magazine underwent a face and name change to become *USGF Gymnastics*. In 1983 another name change and facelift went into effect when *USGF Gymnastics* was transformed into *USA Gymnastics*. Now with the September/October 1988 edition, *USA Gymnastics* continues its commitment to serve the ever-changing gymnastics community with a magazine that truly enhances and entertains.

No longer will the magazine be a vehicle that only coaches and judges can understand. The majority of our readers are current competing athletes. To be specific, girls between the ages of eight and 18 constitute the majority of the readership.

The survey told us some very interesting statistics. Some we knew and some were very surprising. Some of the more interesting facts that came out of the survey indicated 58 percent of the respondents keep their magazines permanently and refer to them at least four times. We now know that photos and feature stories are at the top of the list with event coverage and technical information following close behind.

On the average, four people looked at each single issue which pushes our readership close to a quarter of a million. The survey also indicated you like the quality of writing and overwhelmingly thought the quality of the magazine was excellent. So with that in mind, we set out to give you an even better gymnastics publication.

Something for everyone to enjoy was the major theme in the redesign process. A more upbeat graphic package and a more diverse editorial structure beginning with this column, which will appear in every issue. In every issue you will see articles on sports

fitness. There will be instructional articles for all levels. Club news will also be a regular topic within the new format. We will update you on new products, and on how U.S. Gymnastics Federation sponsors are helping to serve the gymnastics community. Artistic, as well as rhythmic, gymnastics will be highlighted in every issue. Coaches, gymnasts and parents will all be able to read and learn about current safety procedures or read our open forum page where readers write in to compliment or sound off.

Of course, we will continue to establish superb color photos and the well-written editorial content that you have come to enjoy. In a nutshell, there will be something for everyone.

Speaking of that, you may have noticed on the opposite page, a Letters To The Editor page where we invite your opinion and your thoughts. Letters can be anything from your feelings on the magazine to how you felt at your state competition. It becomes your voice in the gymnastics community.

Gymnasts are very lucky people. Because of the sheer nature of the sport, gymnasts have to be very diverse. Now you are lucky again because there is a very diverse *USA Gymnastics* magazine to educate and entertain all

The Right Move

Dear Editor:

I have always like gymnastics, but I didn't know how much until the Olympics of 1984 where I learned about your great gymnasts as many others around the world did. I was happy because it was about time for the Americans to take the leading role in world gymnastics. It was about time to see new faces and new interest in this fantastic sport.

I am sure that after these Games many people in your country got involved with gymnastics and your Olympic champions became the idols of the young kids that were just starting. They earned fame and money and they gave up gymnastics. Some of them did right like Connor (Bart), Vidmar (Peter), Hartung (James), Kathy Johnson, McNamara (Julianne) and Takewara (Tracy). They had given to American gymnastics everything they could for all these years.

But what about Reiton (Mary Lou) and Gaylord (Mitch)? They preferred to become "muscle stars" instead of helping their country. I wonder did they see what happened in Montreal? Did they ever care about it? They let down all the people that had believed in them and you at the Federation.

I would like to congratulate and thank Tim Daggett and Scott Johnson who went on with gymnastics even if they won the greatest honor by becoming Olympic champions, even if they have spent so many hours in the gym. This way they proved that they really love this sport, their country and they have "the spirit of the Games" inside of them.

Well, that's all I wanted to say. I hope you will all bring American Gymnasts into the first place, where it deserves.

Eni Eleftheriadou
Brno, Greece

Regulation Or Innovation

Dear Editor:

Coaching a gymnast for success naturally permits many options, but coaching by the code of points and allowing the "restrictions of the system" to limit the gymnast, keeping her from reaching her full potential. How many times do we train our gymnasts just to score? We are teaching that score is more important than undertaking the performance as an all-out effort for perfection. I understand that flawless execution pays the highest dividends and, that with a reasonable amount of difficulty, our gymnasts can qualify for a respectable score. But, worldwide, it seems to me that the leaders and constant winners are the most innovative. What happens to the coach, judge or gymnast who fails to strive toward new progressive ideas and skills? We not only limit our development but also fail to stimulate our gymnasts to be leaders.

We are fast becoming imitators who only copy other's skills and routines. At the present time our options are beginning to look like compulsory with virtually the same skills being performed by each gymnast. Our gymnastics will become even more predictable in the future because of the new system where coaches will be rated by their ability to memorize the code and safety manuals. I understand that because of our lawsuit happy society we must find ways to protect our sport.

Memorization of a book doesn't make a good coach or judge because both must rely on experience and common sense to keep our sport both safe and challenging to the gymnast. We must all look to the future to create new goals for our best athletes.

Earl E. Metzler, III
Doeringstown, PA

A Moment On The Balance Beam

Dear Editor:

Although I have been on the balance beam thousands of times during the last four years, sometimes when I am perfecting a new trick, I become very frightened and nervous. Right now, I am working on a series of back handsprings on the balance beam, which happens to be only four inches wide and four feet above the floor. Also, these happen to be blind moves, that is I can not see the beam until after I have landed. To make this series even more difficult, I must do at least two of these back handsprings with only one second interval between the first and second handspring. If I were to hesitate more than two seconds, the judges would then deduct points from my score.

Not only is this a difficult move to do on the balance beam, but my fear is even greater than it would normally be, because I sprained my ankle badly once when I was practicing this trick. Therefore, each time I do it, I worry that I will land incorrectly and re-injure my ankle.

A beam routine should be done effortlessly and smoothly. It takes a lot of discipline to control fear and perform a beam routine well. Fear destroys the concentration which is essential to an outstanding performance.

Rachel Jewell
Advanced Optional Gymnast
Capital Gymnastics Club
Burke, Virginia

The Choice Is Ours

Protests Or Cooperation For The Improvement Of Gymnastics Judging

By John Scheer
and Jeff Johnson

Editor's Note: Submissions for Open Floor are welcome. All submissions must be signed and typed double spaced. Send all manuscripts to USA Gymnastics, Open Floor Editor, 1089 N. Meridian St., Suite 380, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204.

April 5, 1988 did some damage to men's gymnastics. This was the first year for the new protest rule in collegiate competition. It took the concluding showcase event, the NCAA team finals, for everyone to realize the full impact of the rule: *Every time the team competition is close on a championship event, coaches' protests will have to be ruled upon following the competition before a team champion can be named.*

If the team finals are not close, the protest rule will not make any difference, but those are the less exciting Championships, anyway. The truly exciting finishes - the close ones - will be diminished tremendously by the need for officials to handle protests following the last competitive rotation. At Nebraska, what would have been one of the most spectacular conclusions to the team race in history - a 0.5 victory by Arizona State following a super 3.30 by Dan Hayden on high bar - turned into a dismal 45 minute delay while the high bar judges considered protests and the Games Committee ruled on other gray areas surrounding the protest rule itself. How must that have looked to the average spectator? Undoubtedly some would see the delay as exciting. But we would bet that most would view gymnastics in a somewhat lesser light as a result. The unfortunate thing in a situation like this is that the Championship ended in an atmosphere of protest with both Arizona State and Nebraska believing they should have won.

Having seen how the protest rule can diminish a Championship, is there an alternative? Obviously, at Nebraska, both Don Robinson and Francis Allen believed the judges had missed something, as evidenced by the fact that they both filed protests. What coach has not been concerned about judging at times? Let's face it - judges cannot be omniscient. They are faced with the task of memorizing 231 pages of skill

values alone, totaling 1,006 separate skill ratings, and that's before they memorize a single deduction or have to make an accurate camp judgment on the value of one of the many unlisted skills. Furthermore, judging is a hobby for most that keeps them close to the sport they learned to love as competitors. They can't make much money from judging, yet they are charged with evaluating the work of coaches whose very livelihoods depend on their accurate judgments.

Officials are a necessary part of the sports scene. Try, for a moment, to imagine gymnastics without judges. If competent judging is important to gymnastics, then it seems to us that both coaches and judges would be interested not in a protest rule, which results in little or no improvement in judging, but in an alternative rule which would increase cooperative communication and education between and among coaches and judges. We believe our proposed alternative to the protest rule below could result in substantial improvements in the judging of gymnastics.

Proposal

1. A simple form would be created on which coaches could write anything they wish pertaining to specific judging factors. For example, they could write unusual or uncommon skills the judges will see (including pages on which the skills appear if they wish), unusual methods of fulfilling combination requirements, possible originality, etc. We believe the form should not include the school name nor any gymnasts' names, but rather should be anonymous. We further believe that coaches should not write out routines, since many gymnasts are good at covering up mistakes by changing their routines in midstream.

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1. The first step is to identify the problem or question that needs to be answered.

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	2	29	
	3	30	
	4	31	
Midwestern Contract	5	32	
Midwest Program	6-10	33	
College of ACCT System	1	34	
	2	35	
	3	36	

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1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 2000; 284: 2689-2695.

Table 1

1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 26

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William J. Bennett

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Table 1. Demographic characteristics of study population

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It was the "bear necessities" that got Scott Johnson involved in gymnastics. Recently, Johnson returned to those "simple bear necessities" to continue his storybook career.

In lands far away (Cincinnati, Ohio) during times long ago (1971) Johnson's fourth-grade class presented its version of Rudyard Kipling's classic children's story "The Jungle Book" in a play. It was due to this play that one of America's top gymnastics figures got his start.

"In the play were simple gymnastics tumbling skills and they came easy for me. Because I could tumble, I got the lead and played Mowgli, the jungle boy. That, you might say, was my birth into gymnastics," said Johnson.

Soon after his acting career ended, Johnson's family, who weren't actually wolves as was the case in the play, packed up and moved to Colorado Springs, Colorado, where a newspaper ad helped Johnson continue with his new-found love. "I guess you could say that I was a hyper-active kid. I was always bouncing off the couch or some-

thing, so my parents asked me if I would like to take tumbling classes at the YMCA. From the first day, I loved it."

This began the learning process that has stuck with the gymnast all of his competitive life. In the sixth grade he began competing for Stronheim Elementary School's tumbling team. "In my very first meet I was a fifth place ribbon. By the end of the year I placed second and almost won, so I was very excited about my progress. That was my first big thrill."

The thrills came frequently to Johnson in the eighth and ninth grades, while a member of the Lawson High School team. Johnson won the city all-around championship. As a senior in 1978, he won the state all-around championship and several individual titles. He is still proud of the fact that he set a Colorado all-around score record that still stands today.

Because of his prominent rise, Johnson became a prize recruit for the college ranks. Francis Allen, who had built a dynasty at the University of Nebraska, landed Johnson, throwing this talent-rich gymnast into

Phase Two of his career.

"The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) was very good to me. I have no complaints. But it is really sad to see what the NCAA is doing to gymnastics now. The NCAA isn't all to blame. The U.S. Government, with its budget cuts, forced some universities to cut programs, which is hurting gymnastics in America. Only schools with strong football programs are able to financially support gymnastics programs," he said.

"As an example," stated Johnson, "the Big Eight Conference (which includes Nebraska) has just three gymnastics teams remaining. Now our Big Eight meet is a triangular meet between Nebraska, Iowa State and Oklahoma. I can remember when we had six or seven teams."

Another blow to U.S. gymnastics was the NCAA's ruling to cut the compulsory exercises. "That was a really bad move as far as U.S. gymnastics is concerned," said Johnson. "Our best athletes are in college and their coaches would stress just optional, which really hurt the world-class athletes."

(Note: the NCAA has listened to coaches/athletes like Johnson and, as of 1987, has reinstated compulsory competition for every season except those following an Olympic year.)

Despite the setbacks in college gymnastics, Johnson feels pretty good about the future of U.S. gymnastics. Since his indoctrination into international competition in 1981 as a member of the World Championship team, Johnson has seen steady progress for the U.S. team and in the gymnasts that have made, and will make, the team. "A lot of the athletes are much more serious now because of the success in the 1984 Olympics," said Johnson. "The junior program is stronger and the coaches are smarter. The athletes are getting more involved in the administration and of the sport which shows we are more serious. I think it is really working."

For Johnson, the 1984 Olympics was almost the culmination of his career. "Gymnastics became different after I won a gold medal. My

By Mike Botkin

**Championships
Setback
Spurs Scott
Johnson
Back to Basics**



THE BEAR NEC

main goal in life was to make an Olympic team and I did that. For almost a year after the Olympics, I was burned out. It didn't feel good to go into the gym. Then one day, four weeks prior to the 1985 McDonald's Championships of the USA, I went into the gym and it felt good again. So I partitioned into the Championships, placed sixth all-around, and made the national team."

It was at this time, life became hectic for Johnson. Competition after competition left him little time to train. Then on May 3, 1986, three days after the McDonald's Gymnastics Challenge, USA/USSR, Johnson got married. "After the wedding, I took three weeks off for the honeymoon. While I was doing nothing, everyone else was in the gym training for the Championships."

The hectic schedule and the layoff all came crashing down around Johnson during the 1986 Championships. A disastrous compulsory high bar routine scored a 6.80, plummeting Johnson out of contention for a spot on the Goodwill Games team.

"It was almost like I needed a slap in the face," said Johnson about his poor showing in the Championships. It was at this time he returned to the "bear necessities" in training. At the U.S. Olympic Festival - '86, Johnson faced the task of defending the title he had won in 1983 and showing he wasn't over the hill. "I trained to win that competition. I did so poorly in the Champion-

ships of the USA that really hurt me. I knew I had to work hard to accomplish my goals. I worked for the Festival. I was in the gym every day and trained to win."

Johnson went to Houston, Texas, and looked better than he had in the 1984 Olympics. He won the all-around, took first on high bar and placed second on floor exercise, pommel horse and rings. "The Festival was a key factor in my career. It was a very good competition for me and I

needed that. It showed me I'm not too old, I'm not out of it."

Johnson's age (25) does creep into a conversation, both in terms of his physical abilities and in looking at the young lions snapping at the bear's heels. "I can feel my age now. It takes me longer to get going in the gym. I can't work as hard and I seem to get hurt more."

"Because the junior program is so strong, it keeps me on my toes. I don't want these little kids to beat me. At Championships they beat me - well, everybody beat me," he added, referring to his 15th place finish.

Despite the pressures from the youth, Johnson feels confident of attaining his goals of making it back onto the national team, making the World Championship team and eventually the 1988 Olympic team. "Since my ranking on the national team has slipped, my next competition will probably be the 1987 Championships of the USA, so I am going to have time to concentrate on improving my technical skills. I'm really looking forward to next year."

Next year, the 1987 World Championships will be held in Rotterdam, Holland. And, if Johnson makes the U.S. squad, the one-time Rough will face his seasoned inerts stalking a different sort of bear: the World Champion Men's team from the Soviet Union.



CESSITIES

A HOT TIME IN HOUSTON

By Susan Polakoff

Featuring photos by Dave Black (1986) photo © 1986

How hot was it in Houston, Texas, during the 1986 U.S. Olympic Festival?

It was so hot that 15,000 pounds of ice were added to a slushy swimming pool to prevent water polo players from suffering heat exhaustion. It was so hot the grassy playing field used for field hockey had to be flooded by the Houston fire dept. to reduce scorching temperatures.

But perhaps one of the hottest places during those two sweltering weeks was inside the air-conditioned Summit Arena, the venue for gymnastics competition.

Not only was the competition hot, but the crowd was electric. Festival attendance records for gymnastics were shattered and for the first time in the history of the sport, spectators participated in a series of thunderous cheers, a phenomenon usually reserved for fans in pro football stadiums.

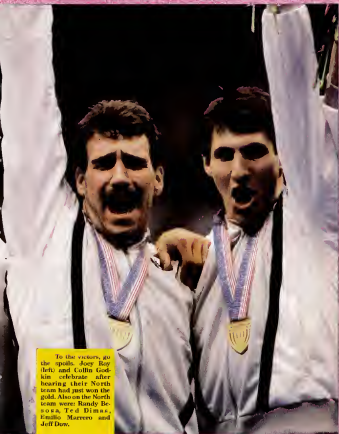
"The best thing possible for gymnastics is when people drive up and see that sign outside that says 'TONIGHT'S GYM NASTIES SOLD OUT,'" said Houston-based Coach Bela Karolyi. A crowd of 15,640 watched the women's event finals on Sunday evening. That's more fans than have watched any other gymnastics competition at any other Festival.

"The audience was full of electric energy and they were not afraid to show their appreciation of gymnastics," said Allison Cummings, the United States Gymnastics Federation's Events Director. "The crowd was a major contributor to the success of the event."

Successful too was a 25-year-old Olympian who rekindled his competitive spark and a pair of ninth-grade girls who cooled their competition.

Scott Johnson, of Lincoln, Nebraska, a member of the 1984 Olympic team, won the Festival's all-around gold and one medal in each of the six men's individual apparatus events. With three night medals, Johnson's total career Olympic Festival medal count is 12. No athlete in the history of the Festival has won more medals than Johnson.

Kristie Phillips, 14, of Baton Rouge, La., won the women's all-around and gold medals in every final event she qualified for — the balance beam, vault, and floor. Her closest challenger, Karolyi Gymnastics' teammate Phoebe Mills, 13, made five trips to the awards stand.



To the victors, go the spoils. Joey Ray (left) and Collin Godkin celebrate after hearing their North team had just won the gold. Also on the North team were: Randy Benson, Ted Dimas, Emilio Marrero and Jeff Dow.

Men's Competition

Johnson's performance at the Olympic Festival marked the end of a short-lived, but frustrating, slump for the five-year national team member. Johnson had a tough time in the 1988 McDonald's Championships of the USA in June, finishing in 15th position (his compulsory high bar routine turned to a disaster, scoring a 6.80.)

He admitted his training schedule had been sporadic for the McDonald's Championships of the USA in Indianapolis, Indiana. Part of the reason for that was understandable: Johnson was married in May. After taking a break for his honeymoon, he said it was difficult to bear down in the gym.

"After the Championships, I fell all over the place. My poor finish hurt my national ranking and it blew my chance to go to the Goodwill Games. I didn't train like I was supposed to. I needed to prove something to myself. That's why this (Olympic Festival) meant so much to me."

Johnson edged Dan Hayden for the gold, scoring an all-around total of 67.50 to Hayden's 67.40.

An emotional Scott Johnson shouts words of encouragement to himself after executing a difficult sequence on parallel bars. His rock-solid performance earned him the all-around title.



Dan Hayden lost to Scott Johnson by .10 for all-around, but came back to win the gold in pommel horse, rings and parallel bars.



"I'm shooting for the 1992 Olympics. Hopefully, that's when I'll be hitting my athletic peak. Before the Olympic Festival, I went back to what had worked before. After the National Championships, I just stayed home and trained everyday. That's what it takes to compete with the Haydens, the Babcock and the Duggitts."

Although Dennis Hayden set out most of the Olympic Festival with a swollen knee, twin brother Dan kept the Hayden name in the spotlight. Dan took the all-around silver and scored the night's top score on the pommel horse with a 9.80. "I was pretty relaxed through the whole meet. The lesson I learned from the Goodwill Games is not to get nervous," Dan said. "I'm coming back after being out for one and one-half years. I feel I'm back," he said.



John Sweeney became good friends with the vault, winning the gold in that event. He also won a gold on floor, a silver on parallel bars and a bronze in the all-around.

Championships and tonight I hit six for six. I guess it was a miraculous change," Sweeney said.

Johnson's highest marks came on high bar and the pommel horse, with a pair of 9.70's. Two nights later, in the individual event finals, he, along with Dan Hayden, scored a 9.00, minutes apart, in a dramatic parallel barsets. Johnson collected silver medals on floor, pommel horse, rings, and bronze on vault and parallel bars. His only gold medal for event finals came in the last event, high bar. He scored a 9.70 to share the gold with the University of Minnesota's Collin Godkin.

"I was getting a little tired of standing on the second place stand. Winning the gold on high bar was long on the cake," Johnson said. He managed to finish with a total of eight medals, a record for one Olympic Festival.

Sweeney celebrated his 23rd birthday on the night of the event finals by nabbing two golds in the floor and vault and a silver on parallel bars. Dan Hayden skillfully knocked out a 9.90 on parallel bars to take the gold on that event. He also racked up golds on the rings and pommel horse and a bronze on high bar.

The team medal race was a battle to the end. The North, led by fourth-place all-around finisher Godkin, captured the gold (217.25); Johnson and Sweeney's team, the West, took the silver medal (217.00); the South, Dan Hayden's team, won the bronze (215.45).

Collin Godkin performed well throughout the Olympic Festival to place fourth all-around. Godkin placed sixth on pommel horse but tied Scott Johnson for a gold medal on high bar.

The highest score of the preliminaries, a 9.85, went to John Sweeney for his floor routine. Sweeney won the bronze in the all-around (56.70). Sweeney graduated this year from Arizona State and placed 30th all-around at Championships of the USA. He showed his strength in the vault and parallel bars, scoring a 9.80 and a 9.60, respectively. "I was relaxed," said the former Houston Baptist University All-American, in Indianapolis I missed five sets out of 13. I wanted to come here and have fun. I didn't put pressure on myself like I did at



Results on page 13

Women's Competition

The Phillips-Mills machine rolled through event by event, collecting eleven medals between them. Phillips edged out Mills to win the all-around title, 38.30 to 38.00 points. Defending Olympic Festival champion, Kelly Garrison, finished in fourth spot while Robin Richter of Lincoln, Nebraska, took the bronze medal.

Garrison's undoing came on the balance beam, usually her strongest event. A fall cost her—she scored 8.90 and dropped to sixth place. The 19-year-old from Altus, Oklahoma, rolled on floor exercise, scoring a 9.45, but that effort was not good enough to give her a medal.

Heaven medalist Richter, representing the West team, scored a 9.35 on the uneven bars, the night's best score for that event. Only a year ago, Richter was a Class 1 gymnast and now is number 13 on the senior national team. SCATS' Jennifer Barton did a commendable job, placing fifth all-around and scored 9.30 on bars.

The reigning Junior National Champion, Phillips, captured first on beam, floor and vault, scoring 9.75's on all three. Mills, competing for the South team, finished in second spot on beam (9.60), floor (9.50) and vault (9.65). "I didn't know how close Phoebe and I were," said Phillips. "It's something I try not to think about."



The crowd adopted the two Houston transplants as its favorites. Both Mills and Phillips received hearty reactions throughout the evening. "The crowd was great, all that clapping and cheering really got me pumped," Phillips said. The 14-year-old blonde from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, was quick to credit Mills, who, according to Phillips, "really pushes me. Phoebe helps me so much during workouts. I wouldn't be as good as I am without her. She really keeps me going."

Karolyi shared similar sentiments. "The greatest surprise of the night was Phoebe's performance. Everyone is used to seeing Kristie do well and play the crowd, but tonight was the first time I saw Phoebe performing like a great competitor. She had the best bars routine I've seen and her vault was great. (The enthusiastic audience boomed her 9.25 beam score.) I am so proud of Phoebe. She was the best, tonight was her night."

The East (Garrison's squad) and South team tied for the gold medal and the North team, led by Phillips, took the bronze.

Two nights later, in front of a sold-out house, the women's individual event finals gave the Phillips-Mills team another excuse to cheer. Mills, a former national speedskating champion from Northfield, Ill., was the only gymnast to medal in all four events. She earned the maximum six medals.

Olympic Festival uneven bars champion Phoebe Mills pushed teammate Kristie Phillips throughout the competition. Mills placed second all-around, .30 behind Phillips.

during the entire event. Mills earned silver in the beam, floor, vault and a long-awaited gold medal in what is becoming her specialty — the uneven bars (Mills' brother and sister competed in the Olympic Festival, but in speed-skating.)

But the show stopper of the evening was Phillips' beam routine, which is becoming as well-known as Larry Bird's three-point shot. She received a 9.60 from the judges, a standing ovation from the spectators and the traditional bear hug from Kerola. "This was the best beam routine I've ever done," Phillips said.

The always optimistic Mills admits she sometimes tires of finishing in second place, but said, "my time will come. Kristie motivates me to keep trying more than ever."



Additional medalists included Corrine Wright, bronze in the vault, Barton, bronze in the uneven bars and floor and Richter a silver on the uneven bars. Darrin Lister, from Tulsa, Oklahoma, won a bronze medal on the balance beam. Lister's older sister, Deon, is a rhythmic gymnast who was also a U.S. Olympic Festival competitor.

Defending Olympic Festival all-around champion Kelly Garrison used a beautiful 9.45 on floor to push her to fourth place all-around after a setback on balance beam.

Kristie Phillips was the big winner for the women taking the all-around, vault, balance beam and floor gold medals.

Results on page 19



BEHIND THE SCENE

By Susan Polaskoff

When Michelle Dusserre composes her "What I Did On My Summer Vacation" composition in English class this fall, she very well could write a short novel.

The 1984 Olympian spent eight weeks on the set of the movie "American Anthem" in Phoenix, Arizona, as a stunt woman. Dusserre performed all of the tumbling scenes for actress Janet Jones in the film featuring 1984 Olympic Gold Medalist Mitch Gaylord.

"I would do it again," Dusserre said. "It was a lot of fun, but also a lot of work. There is no much waiting around in between takes. (Director) Albert Magnoli was such a perfectionist. What took most directors 30 minutes to shoot took him one and one-half hours. Everything he did was perfect," recalls Dusserre.



Twins for a day. Michelle Dusserre (left) poses with Janet Jones on the set of American Anthem.

Dusserre said the set was an abandoned Reynolds aluminum plant. To make the set look like a real gym, more than \$1 million was poured into the building.



"I now have a greater appreciation for the film industry. It can take a whole day to shoot a 15-second scene."

Former teammate Kathy Johnson served as technical adviser for the film and suggested Dusserre for the part of Jones' double. Dusserre performed stunts on the floor, beam and vault, but Jones did all of her own dance on floor.

"Janet, Kathy and I became as close as sisters. The three of us were hanging around all the time. My parents were very supportive and came to visit me."

In order for Dusserre to pass for Jones, her hair was bleached. "It was as blonde as Kristie Phillips' hair," Dusserre laughed. A rubber mask was constructed and glued to her face, then

make-up was applied. This procedure was more complicated than it sounds. First, a plaster cast was made of Dusserre's face, then the rubber mask was constructed. By the time the mask was made, altered and applied by professionals, it turned out to be a \$30,000 project, according to the director. "It took the make-up artist two and one-half hours to put it all on the first time," she remembered. To complete the transformation, Dusserre was given brown contact lenses to wear. "I also had to wear a padded bra. I felt like everybody was staring at me," she chuckled.

One of Dusserre's most memorable moments came one afternoon when she left the set to eat lunch with members of the cast and crew. "I forgot to take off my mask. That was pretty scary because up close, I looked like I had a disease."

One scene in particular brings back some humorous memories. One day, Dusserre was attempting a legend's Takahara vault and was having trouble properly executing the stunt. After several takes she finally hit. "Janet got so excited she jumped right into the picture!" and Dusserre. That version of the vault was used in the film, but from an angle that did not show Jones' substitution.

"I now have a greater appreciation for the film industry," the 17-year-old said. "It can take a whole day to shoot a 15-second scene. When I see a movie now I look for details and really appreciate how much time and effort went into it."

The SCATS gymnast, a senior at Pacific High School in Huntington Beach, Calif., says she would like to attend UCLA and will make a decision on her Olympic future by the end of 1987. "I would like to try for 1988, but I want to make sure my choices are good before I do it." Dusserre has one sister, Shosana, 18, who plays soccer. She likes drawing, artwork and "spending time with my family."

A HOT TIME IN HOUSTON

RESULTS

Men's Gymnastics

1988 U.S. Olympic Festival

Houston, Texas

Event Finals

Floor Exercise				
PLACE	NAME	TEAM	SCORE	FINAL
1	Scott Brumby	Ind.	9.800	10.000
2	Scott Johnson	Ind.	9.800	9.800
3	Mark Spry	Ind.	9.600	10.000
4	Scott Snyder	Ind.	9.600	9.800
5	Jeff Brown	Ind.	9.600	9.600
6	Jeffrey	Ind.	9.400	9.800

Pommel Horse				
PLACE	NAME	TEAM	SCORE	FINAL
1	Scott Snyder	Ind.	9.700	9.700
2	Scott Johnson	Ind.	9.500	9.700
3	Christopher Caldwell	Ind.	9.400	9.500
4	Christopher Caldwell	Ind.	9.200	9.500
5	Scott Snyder	Ind.	9.000	9.700
6	Christopher Caldwell	Ind.	8.800	9.700

Rings				
PLACE	NAME	TEAM	SCORE	FINAL
1	Scott Snyder	Ind.	9.600	9.600
2	Scott Johnson	Ind.	9.400	9.600
3	Michael Phillips	Ind.	9.200	9.600
4	Christopher Caldwell	Ind.	9.000	9.600
5	Jeffrey	Ind.	8.800	9.600
6	Christopher Caldwell	Ind.	8.600	9.600

Vault				
PLACE	NAME	TEAM	SCORE	FINAL
1	Scott Johnson	Ind.	9.700	9.700
2	Christopher Caldwell	Ind.	9.500	9.700
3	Scott Snyder	Ind.	9.300	9.700
4	Jeffrey	Ind.	9.100	9.700
5	Christopher Caldwell	Ind.	8.900	9.700
6	Jeffrey	Ind.	8.700	9.700

Beam				
PLACE	NAME	TEAM	SCORE	FINAL
1	Jeffrey	Ind.	9.700	10.000
2	Scott Johnson	Ind.	9.500	9.800
3	Christopher Caldwell	Ind.	9.300	9.800
4	Christopher Caldwell	Ind.	9.100	9.800
5	Christopher Caldwell	Ind.	8.900	9.800
6	Christopher Caldwell	Ind.	8.700	9.800

Parallel Bars				
PLACE	NAME	TEAM	SCORE	FINAL
1	Scott Snyder	Ind.	9.500	9.500
2	Scott Johnson	Ind.	9.300	9.500
3	Scott Johnson	Ind.	9.100	9.500
4	Jeffrey	Ind.	8.900	9.500
5	Christopher Caldwell	Ind.	8.700	9.500
6	Christopher Caldwell	Ind.	8.500	9.500

Team				
PLACE	NAME	TEAM	SCORE	FINAL
1	Jeffrey	Ind.	9.700	10.000
2	Scott Johnson	Ind.	9.500	9.800
3	Christopher Caldwell	Ind.	9.300	9.800
4	Christopher Caldwell	Ind.	9.100	9.800
5	Christopher Caldwell	Ind.	8.900	9.800
6	Christopher Caldwell	Ind.	8.700	9.800

Team				
PLACE	NAME	TEAM	SCORE	FINAL
1	Jeffrey	Ind.	9.700	10.000
2	Scott Johnson	Ind.	9.500	9.800
3	Christopher Caldwell	Ind.	9.300	9.800
4	Christopher Caldwell	Ind.	9.100	9.800
5	Christopher Caldwell	Ind.	8.900	9.800
6	Christopher Caldwell	Ind.	8.700	9.800

Team				
PLACE	NAME	TEAM	SCORE	FINAL
1	Jeffrey	Ind.	9.700	10.000
2	Scott Johnson	Ind.	9.500	9.800
3	Christopher Caldwell	Ind.	9.300	9.800
4	Christopher Caldwell	Ind.	9.100	9.800
5	Christopher Caldwell	Ind.	8.900	9.800
6	Christopher Caldwell	Ind.	8.700	9.800

Team				
PLACE	NAME	TEAM	SCORE	FINAL
1	Jeffrey	Ind.	9.700	10.000
2	Scott Johnson	Ind.	9.500	9.800
3	Christopher Caldwell	Ind.	9.300	9.800
4	Christopher Caldwell	Ind.	9.100	9.800
5	Christopher Caldwell	Ind.	8.900	9.800
6	Christopher Caldwell	Ind.	8.700	9.800

Women's Gymnastics

1988 U.S. Olympic Festival

Houston, Texas

Event Finals

Vault				
PLACE	NAME	TEAM	SCORE	FINAL
1	Phyllis	Ind.	9.500	9.500
2	Phyllis	Ind.	9.300	9.500
3	Phyllis	Ind.	9.100	9.500
4	Phyllis	Ind.	8.900	9.500
5	Phyllis	Ind.	8.700	9.500
6	Phyllis	Ind.	8.500	9.500

Pommel Horse				
PLACE	NAME	TEAM	SCORE	FINAL
1	Phyllis	Ind.	9.500	9.500
2	Phyllis	Ind.	9.300	9.500
3	Phyllis	Ind.	9.100	9.500
4	Phyllis	Ind.	8.900	9.500
5	Phyllis	Ind.	8.700	9.500
6	Phyllis	Ind.	8.500	9.500

Rings				
PLACE	NAME	TEAM	SCORE	FINAL
1	Phyllis	Ind.	9.500	9.500
2	Phyllis	Ind.	9.300	9.500
3	Phyllis	Ind.	9.100	9.500
4	Phyllis	Ind.	8.900	9.500
5	Phyllis	Ind.	8.700	9.500
6	Phyllis	Ind.	8.500	9.500

Beam				
PLACE	NAME	TEAM	SCORE	FINAL
1	Phyllis	Ind.	9.500	9.500
2	Phyllis	Ind.	9.300	9.500
3	Phyllis	Ind.	9.100	9.500
4	Phyllis	Ind.	8.900	9.500
5	Phyllis	Ind.	8.700	9.500
6	Phyllis	Ind.	8.500	9.500

Vault				
PLACE	NAME	TEAM	SCORE	FINAL
1	Phyllis	Ind.	9.500	9.500
2	Phyllis	Ind.	9.300	9.500
3	Phyllis	Ind.	9.100	9.500
4	Phyllis	Ind.	8.900	9.500
5	Phyllis	Ind.	8.700	9.500
6	Phyllis	Ind.	8.500	9.500

Parallel Bars				
PLACE	NAME	TEAM	SCORE	FINAL
1	Phyllis	Ind.	9.500	9.500
2	Phyllis	Ind.	9.300	9.500
3	Phyllis	Ind.	9.100	9.500
4	Phyllis	Ind.	8.900	9.500
5	Phyllis	Ind.	8.700	9.500
6	Phyllis	Ind.	8.500	9.500

Team				
PLACE	NAME	TEAM	SCORE	FINAL
1	Phyllis	Ind.	9.500	9.500
2	Phyllis	Ind.	9.300	9.500
3	Phyllis	Ind.	9.100	9.500
4	Phyllis	Ind.	8.900	9.500
5	Phyllis	Ind.	8.700	9.500
6	Phyllis	Ind.	8.500	9.500

Team				
PLACE	NAME	TEAM	SCORE	FINAL
1	Phyllis	Ind.	9.500	9.500
2	Phyllis	Ind.	9.300	9.500
3	Phyllis	Ind.	9.100	9.500
4	Phyllis	Ind.	8.900	9.500
5	Phyllis	Ind.	8.700	9.500
6	Phyllis	Ind.	8.500	9.500

Team				
PLACE	NAME	TEAM	SCORE	FINAL
1	Phyllis	Ind.	9.500	9.500
2	Phyllis	Ind.	9.300	9.500
3	Phyllis	Ind.	9.100	9.500
4	Phyllis	Ind.	8.900	9.500
5	Phyllis	Ind.	8.700	9.500
6	Phyllis	Ind.	8.500	9.500

Team				
PLACE	NAME	TEAM	SCORE	FINAL
1	Phyllis	Ind.	9.500	9.500
2	Phyllis	Ind.	9.300	9.500
3	Phyllis	Ind.	9.100	9.500
4	Phyllis	Ind.	8.900	9.500
5	Phyllis	Ind.	8.700	9.500
6	Phyllis	Ind.	8.500	9.500

WILBORN BRINGS HOME BRONZE

Becomes Sole U.S. Medalist In Soviet-Dominated Meet

By Robert Cowan
and Mike Bodkin

New Jersey is a long way from Moscow, but that state provided the only ray of sunshine in an otherwise disappointing Goodwill Games gymnastics competition. In an Olympic-type setting, the much publicized Games became yet another classroom for the youth-oriented U.S. squads as the men's and women's teams placed fifth.

Joyce Wilborn, a powerful gymnast from Wil-Moor Gymnastics club, used her power to her best advantage to become the sole medal winner for the United States. The National Vaulting Champion used vaults of 9.90 and 9.788 to place third behind the Soviet Union's Elena Shoushenova and Elena Shychenko for a bronze medal.

Looking like she was going to have a second-bronze medal to wrap around her neck, Wilborn stepped out of bounds on her last pass on floor to slip her into fourth place in that event. Edging into third was Romania's Mihaela Stiden who placed right behind World Co-Champion Shoushenova and Olesana Omedintchik of the Soviet Union.

It seemed vault and floor were the best two events for the U.S. women as Angela Denkers' (North Star) vaults of 9.750 and 9.513 put her in the seventh spot. Hope Spryng, Parkettes, turned out to be the darling of the delegation. Her outgoing nature and sparkling personality made her a hit among Western journalists covering the multi-media event. Spryng also had a good competition on floor as she scored 9.700 and 9.775 to place sixth in that event.



As was anticipated, the Soviet Union swept the competition with gymnasts finishing one-two in every event and taking the team title by almost six full points. Shoushounova took the gold medal in three of the four individual events (vaulting, uneven bars and floor) and grabbed a silver on the balance beam.

The World Champion took a back seat to teammate Yana Kolomoznikova in the all-around in somewhat of a surprise finish. Kolomoznikova, who led off every event for the Soviets during the 1985 World Championships, took the gold on balance beam and by 150 won the all-around. The Soviets also wrapped up third place all-around with Omeliantchuk holding securely onto that spot. Romania's Gabriela Potomac was a distant fourth a full point behind Omeliantchuk.

The top finisher for the U.S. was Wilborn, who totaled an even 78 points which placed her 15th. Spravey used a fairly consistent performance (9.00 on beam was her lowest score) to come in at 16th all-around. National All-Around Champion Jennifer Sey was the third American in the top 25 with her 21st place finish.

A double-twisting Tuckahara in the layout position vault by Shoushounova provided one of the Games' three perfect scores. In addition to this 10.00, she also performed

perfectly on uneven bars during the preliminary competition. Omeliantchuk followed in her World Championships form by scoring a 10.00 on floor. It was her floor exercise in Montreal that brought an immediate 10.00 from the judges, brought the house down and shattered all conventional floor exercise choreography thinking.

The United States improved its standings on the second event, parallel bars, despite the fact that a member of the U.S. squad did not have a D element and many were limited to just one D move. The GDR averaged three D moves, and the Soviets 2.5 during their portion.

The ghost of the 1985 World Champion

Leading the way for the Americans was Lukac, who ended up 16th all-around. In probably his best international meet to date, Lukac also added a fifth place finish on floor to his credits. Another member of the U.S. delegation who had a good meet was Cahoy, who ended up in 14th place all-around. Cahoy made it to the finals in two events, placing fourth on pommel horse (he is 1986 National Champion on that event) and fifth on parallel bars.

The Soviets Yuri Korolev (all-around champion) and Valentin Mogilya (second all-around) continue to lead the world in execution, style, difficulty and performance. Mogilya interrupts three D moves on pommel horse to do another type of D. He has five D elements in his routines. He and Korolev combined have more D points than several complete teams which competed. North Korea's Chon Hon Li and Kalofor Christov of Bulgaria both turned in excellent performances especially on pommel horse and rings. Another interesting note was that of all the teams present, with the exception of the Soviet Union and United States, new faces and unknown names graced the lineup.

The ghost of the 1985 World Championships once again haunted the U.S. Team.

It was like an icy blast from the past for the U.S. men when they took to the podium at the site of the 1980 Olympic and the 1981 World Championships. As they did in the 1985 World Championships, the United States began on vaulting with the same disastrous results.

Three of the six men fell, which plummeted the U.S. squad into sixth position after the first event. But the U.S. wasn't the only country having its problems. The German Democratic Republic (GDR) stellar performer Ulf Hoffmann fell off high bar as did teammate Mario Reichert and Holger Brandt. In fact, the only team which did not have problems was the host Soviet Union team. Throughout the competition, it was evident the Soviets were the only team which had come into the meet really prepared.

ships once again haunted the U.S. team as Don Hayden flew off high bar during warm ups and was carried off the podium just as he was during these Championships. Due to the injury, the U.S. was forced to count a 9.05, and the only team to place below the U.S.'s total of 47.15 was Japan, who acted like somebody greased the bar before they went up finishing with a 46.75 total.

The United States was mounting a comeback behind solid performances by Charles Lukac and Phil Cahoy. With Don Hayden out and Tim Daggett falling on his floor exercise dismount, the U.S. was still in a position to take third. But China finished strong on floor (48.60) and Romania was solid on high bar (47.55), which pushed the U.S. into fifth, just ahead of Japan.

Soviets Turn Tide On Bulgaria



Diane Simpson became the only American to make finals in the Goodwill Games. Simpson's 9.70 ribbon routine fulfilled a pre-meet goal set by the U.S. rhythmic delegation.

By Nora Hittzel
Rhythmic Program
Coordinator

In what was expected to be an intense dual meet between defending World Champion Bulgaria and the Soviet Union, turned into a sweep for the Soviets during the rhythmic gymnastics competition of the Goodwill Games, July 8-10. Tamara Drachina (9.000), Marina Lobach (8.950) and Galina Beloguzova (8.955) provided the push to capture the top three all-around spots in the meet.

So complete was the Soviet's dominance that of the 12 routines performed, 10 received scores

of 10.00. The highest ranking Bulgarian, Tsvetana Filipova, finished in fourth place with an all-around total of 38.50.

The United States was represented by defending National Champion Marina Karyavsky and Dianne Simpson. Of the two, Simpson placed 12th (9.70) while Karyavsky slipped just behind her in 15th (8.65). Simpson's 9.70 ribbon score placed her in the finals of that event, a pre-meet goal set by the U.S. team. Karyavsky scored the highest mark of any American, receiving a 9.60 for her clubs routine, which just missed placing her in the finals of that event. For a 9.60 score to fail to make the

finals is just an indication of the high scoring which permeated this competition.

In addition to high-level performances seen in apparatus and body technique, this competition further emphasized the directional changes rhythmic gymnastics is taking in terms of musical accompaniment, a crucial element in this discipline. While the piano still dominated as the accompaniment for the majority of gymnasts, a variety of other musical instruments were used including a guitar, saxophone, flute and an accordion. A member of the Bulgarian team competed with a vocal accompaniment which sounded like a chant. The previews were mixed with regard to its effectiveness but no deductions were taken leading the gymnastics community to believe that this form of accompaniment falls within the framework of the International Gymnastics Federation's (FIG) Code of Points.

An experimental judging system was used during the Goodwill Games. A six-panel approach, recently approved by the Rhythmic FIG Technical Committee, made its debut. Six judges per event were used instead of four

which has been the normal procedure. The two high scores and the two low scores were thrown out which left the middle two scores to be averaged. In the past, just one high and one low score were thrown out. This move was made by the FIG to decrease judging time. In this meet, there was no way of telling if it worked because no judging breakdowns were distributed. However, the concept of this system appears to be an important approach for the FIG to study further.

One of the major thrusts behind the Goodwill Games was to promote goodwill between all participating countries, especially the United States and Soviet Union. The U.S. rhythmic delegation probably had more personal opportunities to reflect upon this than any other delegation from any other sport. Four of the nine-member delegation were born in the Soviet Union and were returning to their birthplace for the first time since becoming citizens of the United States. There were many occasions for tears and tighter security, but throughout all of the entire experience of the competition was positive.

SIMPSON'S DETERMINATION LEADS TO GLORY

Diane Simpson proved it takes a tough athlete to survive in the most feminine of sports

By Susan Peiskoff

Competing with a broken right index finger, Diane Simpson, 39, won the gold medal in the all-around competition at the 1988 U.S. Olympic Festival, defeating defending champion Marina Kuznetsov.

"Competing in rhythmic gymnastics with a broken finger is like running track with a broken foot," said Norm Hinkel, rhythmic program administrator for the United States Gymnastics Federation.

"In addition to adapting her losses and catches, she had to incorporate the structure of her routines at the last minute," Hinkel said. Simpson broke her finger falling out of a turn the day before leaving Evanston, Illinois, for Houston, Texas.

"This is the first major competition I've won and I'm shocked."

Illustration photos by Dave Black (USAGF photo 1988)



"I wasn't even sure I was going to compete until the evening of the preliminary competition," Simpson said. "I really tried to baby my finger during workout. I was trying to ignore the pain as much as I could."

Simpson ignored the pain and dazzled the record-breaking crowd of almost 5,000 that came to watch the sport over two evenings. One of her most unusual performances came during her final ribbon routine in which the ribbon became stuck under the tape on her finger. As a result, the 16-foot ribbon was shortened by half.

"Diane's ribbon routine has the capability of being a 10.00 routine, but the judges deducted when her ribbon became stuck," Hines said. Simpson managed to salvage her routine by scoring a 9.00. "I can't believe that happened," laughed Simpson, who represented the South team.

Simpson said she was most happy with her ball routine, scoring 9.80 for both nights. "This is the first major competition I've won and I'm shocked. I just can't believe it," she said. Simpson is coached by Irina Vokova at Illinois Rhythmic.



To win the gold, Simpson scored 76.250 over Kanyavsky, who placed second. Kanyavsky, representing the North team, scored 75.350 while Irina Rubinshteyn took the bronze medal with a score of 74.200.

Kanyavsky, who had terrible trouble with her favorite event, the clubs, said she was still recovering from the Goodwill Games. "I'm still exhausted from Moscow," she said.

During both nights of competition, Kanyavsky, 20, dropped her clubs several times. Scoring an 8.70 in the preliminary round, the Rhythmic National Champion managed to score a 9.70 in the clubs on the final evening. Kanyavsky's best effort was rope, scoring a 9.75 in the final round.

Shura Feldman's performance in the rope event helped her qualify for the U.S. team competing at the Four Continents Championships in Melbourne, Australia.



Stacy Oversier, working with an injured ankle, still dazzled the Houston crowd, most of whom were seeing rhythmic gymnastics for the first time. It was a feast for the eye, and for money, it was loved at first sight for this most elegant of Olympic sports.

The Houston crowd favored veterans Wendy Hilliard and Decca Lister. Both women played to the crowd, and Hilliard seemed to have the audience in the palm of her hand. Lister finished in fourth spot and Hilliard in seventh.

Cindy Mount, Mely Kreuze and Liz Pither were the top junior finishers, followed by Jennifer Lovell and Shannon O'Brian. Mount, Kreuze and Pither qualified for the Four Continents Championships (the first time juniors have been included in this prestigious contest) as did Simpson, Kanyevsky, Rubenshtein and Shura Feldman. Scores from the Olympic Festival were

combined with scores from the Championships of the USA to qualify for Four Continents Melbourne, Australia, will host the competition in September.

In team competition, the North, led by Kanyevsky, nabbed the gold. Lister, Kelly Tunks, and O'Brian also contributed to the gold-medal effort. The silver medal was awarded to the South team led by Simpson, Laura David, Lovell and Stacy Oversier. (Oversier withdrew from finals competition due to an ankle injury.) The West team of Rahimshirin, Elizabeth Cull, Kreuze and Pither took home the bronze.



All-Around Finals
Rhythmic Gymnastics
1984 U.S. Olympic Festival
ATLANTA, 1984

Team, Byes

		SCORE	DIFF.	CLUBS	FINISH	U.S.
1	State Gymnasts	South	5.75	0.00	0.00	01.75
2	Team Gymnastics	West	5.75	0.00	0.00	01.75
3	Alexandria, Indiana	East	5.50	0.25	0.00	01.50
4	Monroe Gymnastics	North	5.00	0.50	0.25	01.25
5	Chandler's Club	West	5.00	0.50	0.50	01.00
6	South Lakes	North	4.75	0.25	0.50	00.75
7	Wendy Hilliard	East	4.50	0.50	0.75	00.50
8	Shaw's Gymnastics	South	4.25	0.25	0.75	00.25
9	Kelly Taylor	North	4.00	0.50	0.50	00.00
10	Lynn Carroll	West	3.75	0.25	0.50	00.00
11	Cathy Mount	East	3.50	0.50	0.00	00.00
12	Lu Palmer	West	3.50	0.50	0.00	00.00
13	Wally Krone	West	3.25	0.75	0.00	00.00
14	Carol Ann	North	3.00	0.50	0.00	00.00
15	Shawnee Dickinson	North	3.00	0.50	0.00	00.00
16	Amber Lovell	South	2.50	0.50	0.00	00.00

Rhythmic Gymnastics
1984 U.S. Olympic Festival

PLACE	TEAM	SCORE	DIFF.	CLUBS	FINISH
1	State Gymnasts	South	75.000	0.000	1
2	Monroe Gymnastics	North	70.000	0.000	2
3	Team Gymnastics	West	70.000	0.000	3
4	Carol Langer	North	70.000	0.000	4
5	Alexandria, Indiana	East	70.000	0.000	5
6	Chandler's Club	West	70.000	0.000	6
7	Wendy Hilliard	East	70.000	0.000	7
8	Lynn Carroll	West	70.000	0.000	8
9	Kelly Taylor	North	70.000	0.000	9
10	Cathy Mount	East	70.000	0.000	10
11	Wally Krone	West	70.000	0.000	11
12	Carol Ann	North	65.000	0.000	12
13	Amber Lovell	South	65.000	0.000	13
14	Shawnee Dickinson	North	65.000	0.000	14
15	Shaw's Gymnastics	South	60.000	0.000	15

Team Standings

PLACE	TEAM	SCORE	DIFF.	CLUBS	FINISH	TOTAL
1	State Gymnasts	South	30.000	0.000	01.000	31.000
2	Monroe Gymnastics	North	25.000	0.000	01.000	26.000
3	Team Gymnastics	West	25.000	0.000	01.000	26.000
4	Carol Langer	North	25.000	0.000	01.000	26.000
5	Alexandria, Indiana	East	25.000	0.000	01.000	26.000
6	Chandler's Club	West	25.000	0.000	01.000	26.000
7	Wendy Hilliard	East	25.000	0.000	01.000	26.000
8	Lynn Carroll	West	25.000	0.000	01.000	26.000
9	Kelly Taylor	North	25.000	0.000	01.000	26.000
10	Cathy Mount	East	25.000	0.000	01.000	26.000
11	Wally Krone	West	25.000	0.000	01.000	26.000
12	Carol Ann	North	25.000	0.000	01.000	26.000
13	Amber Lovell	South	25.000	0.000	01.000	26.000
14	Shawnee Dickinson	North	25.000	0.000	01.000	26.000
15	Shaw's Gymnastics	South	25.000	0.000	01.000	26.000

Rope Finals

	SCORE	DIFF.	CLUBS	FINISH
1	State Gymnasts	South	5.000	0.000
2	Monroe Gymnastics	North	4.500	0.000
3	Alexandria, Indiana	East	4.000	0.000
4	Team Gymnastics	West	3.500	0.000
5	Carol Langer	North	3.000	0.000
6	Shaw's Gymnastics	South	2.500	0.000
7	Lynn Carroll	West	2.000	0.000
8	Chandler's Club	West	1.500	0.000
9	Wendy Hilliard	East	1.000	0.000
10	Kelly Taylor	North	0.500	0.000
11	Shawnee Dickinson	North	0.000	0.000
12	Amber Lovell	South	0.000	0.000

Clubs Finals

	SCORE	DIFF.	CLUBS	FINISH
1	State Gymnasts	South	5.000	0.000
2	Monroe Gymnastics	North	4.500	0.000
3	Alexandria, Indiana	East	4.000	0.000
4	Team Gymnastics	West	3.500	0.000
5	Carol Langer	North	3.000	0.000
6	Shaw's Gymnastics	South	2.500	0.000
7	Lynn Carroll	West	2.000	0.000
8	Chandler's Club	West	1.500	0.000
9	Wendy Hilliard	East	1.000	0.000
10	Kelly Taylor	North	0.500	0.000
11	Shawnee Dickinson	North	0.000	0.000
12	Amber Lovell	South	0.000	0.000

Rail Finals

	SCORE	DIFF.	CLUBS	FINISH
1	State Gymnasts	South	5.000	0.000
2	Monroe Gymnastics	North	4.500	0.000
3	Alexandria, Indiana	East	4.000	0.000
4	Team Gymnastics	West	3.500	0.000
5	Carol Langer	North	3.000	0.000
6	Shaw's Gymnastics	South	2.500	0.000
7	Lynn Carroll	West	2.000	0.000
8	Chandler's Club	West	1.500	0.000
9	Wendy Hilliard	East	1.000	0.000
10	Kelly Taylor	North	0.500	0.000
11	Shawnee Dickinson	North	0.000	0.000
12	Amber Lovell	South	0.000	0.000

Ribbon Finals

	SCORE	DIFF.	CLUBS	FINISH
1	State Gymnasts	South	5.000	0.000
2	Monroe Gymnastics	North	4.500	0.000
3	Alexandria, Indiana	East	4.000	0.000
4	Team Gymnastics	West	3.500	0.000
5	Carol Langer	North	3.000	0.000
6	Shaw's Gymnastics	South	2.500	0.000
7	Lynn Carroll	West	2.000	0.000
8	Chandler's Club	West	1.500	0.000
9	Wendy Hilliard	East	1.000	0.000
10	Kelly Taylor	North	0.500	0.000
11	Shawnee Dickinson	North	0.000	0.000
12	Amber Lovell	South	0.000	0.000

Goodwill Games Moscow '86
July 4, 1986

All-Around Final Results

	SCORE	DIFF.	CLUBS	FINISH	TOTAL
1	State Gymnasts	South	5.000	0.000	01.000
2	Monroe Gymnastics	North	4.500	0.000	00.500
3	Alexandria, Indiana	East	4.000	0.000	00.000
4	Team Gymnastics	West	3.500	0.000	00.000
5	Carol Langer	North	3.000	0.000	00.000
6	Shaw's Gymnastics	South	2.500	0.000	00.000
7	Lynn Carroll	West	2.000	0.000	00.000
8	Chandler's Club	West	1.500	0.000	00.000
9	Wendy Hilliard	East	1.000	0.000	00.000
10	Kelly Taylor	North	0.500	0.000	00.000
11	Shawnee Dickinson	North	0.000	0.000	00.000
12	Amber Lovell	South	0.000	0.000	00.000
13	State Gymnasts	South	5.000	0.000	01.000
14	Monroe Gymnastics	North	4.500	0.000	00.500
15	Alexandria, Indiana	East	4.000	0.000	00.000
16	Team Gymnastics	West	3.500	0.000	00.000
17	Carol Langer	North	3.000	0.000	00.000
18	Shaw's Gymnastics	South	2.500	0.000	00.000
19	Lynn Carroll	West	2.000	0.000	00.000
20	Chandler's Club	West	1.500	0.000	00.000
21	Wendy Hilliard	East	1.000	0.000	00.000
22	Kelly Taylor	North	0.500	0.000	00.000
23	Shawnee Dickinson	North	0.000	0.000	00.000
24	Amber Lovell	South	0.000	0.000	00.000

Rope Final

	SCORE	DIFF.	FINAL	TOTAL
1	State Gymnasts	South	5.000	01.000
2	Monroe Gymnastics	North	4.500	00.500
3	Alexandria, Indiana	East	4.000	00.000
4	Team Gymnastics	West	3.500	00.000
5	Carol Langer	North	3.000	00.000
6	Shaw's Gymnastics	South	2.500	00.000
7	Lynn Carroll	West	2.000	00.000
8	Chandler's Club	West	1.500	00.000
9	Wendy Hilliard	East	1.000	00.000

Rail Final

	SCORE	DIFF.	FINAL	TOTAL
1	State Gymnasts	South	5.000	01.000
2	Monroe Gymnastics	North	4.500	00.500
3	Alexandria, Indiana	East	4.000	00.000
4	Team Gymnastics	West	3.500	00.000
5	Carol Langer	North	3.000	00.000
6	Shaw's Gymnastics	South	2.500	00.000
7	Lynn Carroll	West	2.000	00.000
8	Chandler's Club	West	1.500	00.000
9	Wendy Hilliard	East	1.000	00.000

Clubs Final

	SCORE	DIFF.	FINAL	TOTAL
1	State Gymnasts	South	5.000	01.000
2	Monroe Gymnastics	North	4.500	00.500
3	Alexandria, Indiana	East	4.000	00.000
4	Team Gymnastics	West	3.500	00.000
5	Carol Langer	North	3.000	00.000
6	Shaw's Gymnastics	South	2.500	00.000
7	Lynn Carroll	West	2.000	00.000
8	Chandler's Club	West	1.500	00.000
9	Wendy Hilliard	East	1.000	00.000

Ribbon Final

	SCORE	DIFF.	FINAL	TOTAL
1	State Gymnasts	South	5.000	01.000
2	Monroe Gymnastics	North	4.500	00.500
3	Alexandria, Indiana	East	4.000	00.000
4	Team Gymnastics	West	3.500	00.000
5	Carol Langer	North	3.000	00.000
6	Shaw's Gymnastics	South	2.500	00.000
7	Lynn Carroll	West	2.000	00.000
8	Chandler's Club	West	1.500	00.000
9	Wendy Hilliard	East	1.000	00.000

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Keeping Kids Motivated

THE ART (AND SCIENCE) OF
TEACHING GYMNASTICS

PART 1 of 3

By Roy Haynasky

Ah, the good 'ol reinforcer! Reinforcers as a teaching tool do what the dictionary defines they strengthen the child's desire to come back to class.

Actually, the "reinforcer" concept is drawn from psychologist B.F. Skinner's modification in behavior modification, a reinforcer is an event which increases the frequency, intensity, or duration of a behavior in the future. In other words, if a child does something and it is followed by a reinforcer, the child is more likely to repeat the same act later on. For example, if a child comes to gymnastics class and the class results in something really fun, the child is more likely to want to return to gymnastics later on.

For teaching purposes, we can consider reinforcers to be FUN THINGS! Activities that make students giggle or ask to "do it again" are likely to be reinforcers. To use reinforcers, you select several fun activities and pop them into the daily lesson in addition to your standard gymnastics instruction.

Reinforcers make a child forget that he still can't get that back walkover or has five more push ups to go. For a child who is still a beginner after six months, reinforcers can make the difference as to whether he will continue to come to gymnastics. He may be frustrated at not being able to hold handstand yet, but those wheelbarrow races sure are fun! Reinforcement activities can keep students in your classes.

Different reinforcers work for different age groups and different skill levels. Also, it is important to use the right amount of rein-

forcement. If you put reinforcers into your teaching program but still aren't satisfied with your retention (the number of kids continuing in your program), try inserting more reinforcers. If kids don't seem to like your reinforcers, you are probably using the wrong kinds of reinforcers for your age level or skill group. Use only the amount of reinforcement you need to keep your retention levels high — too much reinforcement can backfire on you.

There are five different ways to use reinforcers, each with a predictable result:

1) "CONTINUOUS REINFORCEMENT": Put a reinforcer after every single gymnastics activity. The "continuous reinforcement" method gets kids motivated quickly, but the drawback to continuous reinforcement is that if you take away the reinforcers the students also lose motivation quickly. Continuous reinforcement programs are appropriate for infant programs, special education programs and gymnastics birthday parties.

2) "RATIO REINFORCEMENT (FIXED TYPE)": Put in a reinforcer after a certain number of gymnastics skills, such as after every five skills, or every 10 skills. The good thing about the fixed ratio schedule is that it gets kids to practice lots of repetitions in a short amount of time. The bad news is that these repetitions are often done incorrectly. They hurry to get through so they can do the fun things.

Example: You tell the girls that after they do ten back walkovers, they get to do flip flops on the trampoline. What do you get? Very quick back slipsovers.

The Fixed Ratio reinforcement methods (popping in a fun activity every so many tricks) work best with children over six years old, because they can count. When using Fixed Ratio Reinforcement, you must set a specific standard of excellence in order for students to "count" a skill.

3) "RATIO REINFORCEMENT (VARIABLE TYPE)": Put in a reinforcer after a certain number of tricks, but don't tell the students when it is coming and vary the frequency. For example, write a fun activity into the lesson plan on the average after every three tricks, but vary it so that the reinforcer happens after 2 tricks, after 4 tricks, after 3 tricks, which makes it an unpredictable schedule to the child.

This schedule can produce high intensity practices, but it doesn't help children learn to work toward a goal, because they aren't in control of the reward system.

The variable ratio schedule is one way to build long-term motivation. Since children over age four and one-half respond well to working toward goals (goals are actually a reinforcer for children over four and one-half) it is best not to use variable ratio reinforcement with other students. For younger children, however, variable ratio reinforcement can build a lot of enthusiasm toward exercise and gymnastics. Children under three years old do well when you pop reinforcers into the lesson on a ratio of every two or three tricks. Children between the age of three and four and one-half do well with a reinforcement ratio of one reinforcer activity for every three or four gymnastics skills.

4) "INTERVAL REINFORCEMENT (FIXED TYPE)": You can put reinforcers into your instruction after a certain time period. For example, you could structure the class so that every five minutes a reinforcer would occur. There are big drawbacks to this method. What you get is students who don't do much for five minutes. Perk up for the reinforcer, and then revert to sludge for another five minutes. This is not what you want. So you will want to avoid the Fixed Interval method.

51 "INTERVAL REINFORCEMENT (VARIABLE TYPE)"

You can put your reinforcements into the lesson after an average time period, but not tell the students about it in advance and vary the interval each time. For example, you might plan three reinforcements an hour, but put them at unpredictable time slots. This method pro-

duces very good long-term motivation.

This series of articles has been contributed by SPORTASTICS-TIKS INC., a franchised system of gymnastics center operations. Information is designed especially for gymnastics teachers—to help each instructor get the MOST out of each communication with young gym-

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Senior National Men's Coach Position

The Men's Program Committee is offering a position to be filled as the Senior National Coach for the Men's Program.

This Coach is a representative of a special task force created by the Executive Committee of the USOPF to identify coaches by which the program could be improved.

To date, there has been no commitment from the gymnastics community for such a position to demonstrate fully to applicants for the position.

All the most recent men's program coaches have resigned. The decision was made to continue the current selection process for the national coach from applicants presented to the men's program administration.

This would be a part-time, one-of-five position with a stipend contingent upon the duties performed.

The job description is as follows:

1. Develop 25 men's national coaching positions by January 15, next year. Applicants will submit resumes to the men's program administration by November 15, 1984 with selection for that year taking place at the MPC meeting in December.

2. The National Coach will conduct four regional clinics in the USA. He will structure and conduct these clinics with any assistance he deems justified.

3. He will conduct at least four senior national team training camps each year. He will organize and conduct the clinics in a very structured manner with input from the athletes and coaches and dissemination of materials and format for each camp.

4. He will attend the Championships of the USA, the Goodwill, the American Cup, and the experts of the USOPF men's program.

5. He will attend Congress and be prepared to make presentations. Expenses for the Congress, as well as all other expenses, will be at his expense.

6. He will be the designated head coach of the USA's senior men's International Olympic team (Fiber team's) (FIBER) team competitors for the year he is selected. He will also select the national coach for these competitors. This position must be approved by the Men's Program Committee (MPC). 7. He will develop technical information and disseminate it.

Interested applicants should submit complete resumes to:

Robert Corcos
National Men's Program Administrator
United States Olympic Federation
1070 N. Meridian, Suite 100
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

by November 15, 1984. Appointment will be made by December 15, 1984.



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THE SOVIETS' SECRET! Hard Work

By Robert Cowan
USGF Men's Program
Administrator

Editor's Note: This is the first part of a two-part article on Soviet training techniques. During a visit to Moscow for the Goodwill Games, the U.S. delegation, including Cowan, visited three training sites (Olympic Sports Center, CSKA Central Army School Club and Dinamo Club). Cowan reports his observations.

Sport is one of several important pursuits in Soviet life. It ranks with science, space technology,

food production and other vital commodities. As an important pursuit, sports heroes are idolized by the ordinary Soviet men and women and are granted special privileges not available to the average person. And once the athlete's competitive career is over, former grunts remain actively involved in the sport as judges, coaches, non-sports performers, circus performers, etc. This continued visibility greatly assists the development of the sport.

Continuity is also present in training techniques. The Soviets still use many training techniques that U.S. coaches,

for the most part, have long ago discarded. For example, top Soviet gymnasts regularly train on mini-tramps, trampolines, ropes (climbing) and stall bars. Soviet gymnasts also work harder doing more repetitions and strengthening exercises than their American counterparts.

The following is an event-by-event summary of the Soviet men's training I observed.

Floor Exercise: Gymnasts did repetitive round-off back hand-spring set-ups or hand-ups and were spotted. Some Americans have said that they did not think the higher-level Soviet gymnasts used this technique, but the ones I observed did. Also, they did a number of round-off piked arabian step outs to round-off flip-flop drills. Other

drills were round-off one and one-half twisting step out to round-off flip-flop and handstand snap down flip-flop series. The gymnasts did very little difficulty on floor exercise. However, they did attempt numerous very difficult skills into shredded foam pits.

Pommel Horse: The younger Soviet gymnasts did a lot of drills with the pommels off of the horse. They did approximately 10-15 sets of leaps (15 or more per set) without the pommels. They also did 10-12 sets (10-12 repetitions) of sprines. Finally, the gymnasts did longitudinal travels with the top exercise.

Rings: They primarily worked handstands and strength-type skills, especially using the adjustable rings and strap technique. The younger gymnasts (and Alexandre

Pogorelec tool did a lot of crosses (L-crosses and inverted crosses) and plectches using this system.

Vaulting: The gymnasts did a lot of tramp vaulting. First, mats were set up in the pit, and then they did round-offs off of the tramp and landing on the stacked mats. They did this over and over again. They also did Takashuras (tucks) onto the mats. The mats were then removed and the gymnasts did layout double-twisting tucks. One gymnast attempted a tuck double back, but did not make it.

Parallel Bars: The Soviets did nothing really unusual. However, there were a large number of very young boys who were doing giant Diardons and straight arm peach handstands.

Horizontal Bar: The gymnasts primarily worked on combination releases such as Tkatchev, Tkatchev; Tkatchev, Gerger, etc.

A lot of difference in training methods was evident in the conditioning techniques. It appeared that the main concern from the minute the gymnast entered the gym was to work on strength. The athletes we saw training would climb the rope, use the free weights to do toe rises, squats and bench presses while waiting for their turn on the apparatus.

We observed athletes laying face down on the vaulting horse and grasp-

ing underneath the horse with their lower body hanging in the air. They would then have weight plates put on their legs, and they would do leg lifts. The purpose, we were told, was to strengthen the back and the backs of the legs to enable the gymnasts to swing better on rings and parallel bars. The Soviet gymnasts also did back levers to front levers on single rings continuously. The back levers were held approximately 24 seconds each and the front levers 10 seconds each.



Some additional observations were that throughout the workouts there was a lot of manipulation of body positions. It was not spotting for assistance makes (as we think of it), but rather spotting for positioning of the body for correct alignment.

Also the athletes seemed very highly motivated, with many working without ever being spoken to by a coach. Pos-

sibly aiding their motivation is the fact that any gymnast could be suspended from the national team if he performed poorly in an international meet. This happened to Pogorelec, Sergei Gusev and Vladimir Gogulichev after they were defeated by East Germany. When we saw them, they were training by themselves in separate sessions trying to get back on the national team. And since the Soviet judging standards are more stringent than the FIG's Code of Points, once they make it back on

Germans beat us, and they do not have more numbers. The Russians beat us, and they do not have more numbers. The Japanese beat us occasionally, and they do not have more numbers.

It is easy to place the onus on the USGF to support the athletes, and efforts are being made to provide a work program for them which will compensate them well and at the same time benefit gymnastics. But again, the bottom line is time in the gym.

The athletes we saw are most flexible, stronger and perhaps more dedicated, but I don't believe they have better coaches, better support and better facilities than we do. During the trip, I spent hours with Mas Watanabe, the former USGF men's program director from Japan. He told me that if he had one regret about the time he had spent with our program it would be that he did not get across to the athletes and coaches the tremendous need for total body strength and conditioning. He said that what he had seen led him to believe even more that getting young boys the strongest they can be is very important and perhaps the key to success.

What we saw in the Soviet Union supports this. We must work harder, longer and stronger to compete with and beat the Soviets.

the team, they'll definitely be ready for international competition.

In summary, we saw no magic secrets, no voodoo, no state of the art equipment difference. What we saw was hard work and lots of it. The Soviets are better because they work harder. Granted, they have some cultural advantages, and they have more numbers than we do. But the real answer is work. The East

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BOYS' TIPS: Strength And Conditioning

By Larry A. Moyer

Director, Gymnasium Boys Team

A successful and healthy gymnast needs the important quality of "explosive leg strength" not only for such events as tumbling and vaulting, but also to properly absorb the shock in dismounting and correct landing techniques. The training technique commonly known as "drop jumping" is one of many specific exercises that can assist in this vital area of strength training. Jumping, hopping, and bounding are engaged in different combinations. To better understand these movements:

Bound... to jump, taking off and landing on alternate feet in a sequence

Hop..... to jump, taking off and landing on the same foot

Jump.... to spring, hop or bound from one or both legs with one's feet in the air

An excellent method for developing explosive leg strength is the performance of DROP JUMPS. Jumps must be properly taught and technique is vital if injuries are to be avoided. A note of caution, be careful with young gymnasts ages 10 to 14 as injuries can result in the spine, legs, and hips. Proper technique in landing is important... do not land on stretched legs, they should be slightly bent at the knees with the upper torso in proper alignment with the base of support. Land with the entire foot contacting the surface initially as opposed to landing only on the heels or toes. The arms play a significant role in balance and the rhythm. They, too, can aid in the initiation of explosive power when the gymnast jumps up, over, or onto another obstacle.

The following instructions outline the beginning phases of "Drop Jumping" training:

- (a) Stand on a 32" box or similar safe apparatus.
- (b) Drop off the box or apparatus from two feet and immediately upon landing and contacting the matted surface, rebound from a flexed position of the legs to a position of maximum extension. Be quick and explosive.
- (c) Overload by gradually increasing the height of the box proportionally

Safety Precautions:

Use the 32" distance for gymnasts 12 years and over and modify the apparatus for younger gymnasts using stack mats or similar surfaces.

Remind the gymnast not to land with extended legs or with an excessive flexion at the knee joint.

Suggested Training Schedule:

1. Teach the proper technique to achieve efficiency and safety
2. Begin with 15 repetitions. Each week increase three repetitions until reaching a maximum of 30.
3. Use this exercise in conjunction with a series of other appropriate leg strengthening experiences.

GYMNASTICS UPDATE

How Far Have You Come?

By Michael Henry

"I'm sure I could have gotten my state to handstand. Maybe I should have listened to coach and worked on the drills he gave me?" It seems the end of the season brings on the familiar words of 'I could have' or 'should have' and you start to compare yourself to your teammates, always the better ones, which makes you feel even worse about your progress. It's okay when you have another meet, there is always time to rebound.

Contemplation about the sport you loved so much a couple of months ago sets in as you look frantically in the mailbox searching for USA Gymnastics magazine. Stop a moment! Look back to where you began the year. What skills didn't you have? What

were your scores in the first meet of the season compared to the last competition? Were you afraid of something that now seems easy to perform? How much improvement have you made in your weakest event? **WHERE ARE YOU NOW?** Scoring higher? More difficult skills? Actually you've come a long way and I'll bet that you are not in the same place you started!

Yes, maybe one of your teammates has done better, advanced to a higher level of competition or can do a harder release move on high bar, but who cares? Never compare yourself with another because it is very self-defeating. Maybe you haven't come as far as you would have liked, but think history. The only way you can change is to prepare **NOW**. "I know I should do more strength or concentrate on my form and body positions if I'm going to get any better," you say to yourself, but as someone once said, "To know and not to do is not yet to know!"

So if you think you know and you're not doing then you know nothing. You can't play "catch up" a week before your first meet like cramming for a test in school. If you want to do well then you must prepare yourself **NOW** for next year. **DO** the things you **KNOW** must be done. You have felt that wonderful confidence before, when you have no doubts that you can do something which can only be achieved by great preparation. Last year must be forgotten except for what you have learned and the positive memories of success. You've probably made some mistakes, but remember, the only real mistake is one that you haven't learned from.

Be proud as you look back and see how far you have come and start working now so the distance you traveled can even be greater next year!

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edited by
William Adams

Men's Artistic Gymnastics 1987 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS 1987 PAN AMERICAN GAMES

Team Selection Procedures

I. Qualification: Championships of the USA

- The 1987 Championships of the USA are scheduled for June 28-31, 1987 at a site to be determined.
- Athletes will qualify in the USA Championships by finishing in the top 10 qualifying teams on May 15-17, 1987. Exception: Those who score 90% (combined compulsory and optional) in an approved state letter than the Regional Qualifying exercises to be successfully qualified.

The Men's Program Administrator will verify these approved scores. This verification requires that Competition I rules will be used in events prior to the Regional Meet. Competition II will be used at the Regionals. Also, at least two nationally certified judges will be required per event at all meets. For the state prior to Regionals, more than one club/gymnast must be an alternate for the competition.

The Men's Program Committee will select the site of the Regional Meet. Arrangements of the meet must be made through USA Gymnastics magazine and the USCF office/branches. All Qualification scores will be sent to the Men's Program Administrator.

- For participation in the Championships of the USA, there will be 70 gymnasts. There will be two teams with 35 gymnasts competing in each. Those will be assigned randomly by draw to a national final exercise. The top 30 teams from competition will compete at the later event. In case of a tie for 30th, the higher event, compulsory score shall compete at the second event.
- All-Around ranking will be determined from the compulsory optional exercise. There will be an individual event final with 11 athletes per event. Ranks will include the event score and 50% of the combined compulsory and optional score.
- The Senior National Team will be the top 18 from the combined compulsory and optional exercise. Two will not be broken.
- The Junior Development Team will be the next top 10 who do not make the Senior team and are under the age of 20. The next 4 under the age of 21 will comprise the Junior Development Team of 10. Two will not be broken.
- In case of no injury a gymnast may be postponed on to the National Team by the Men's Program Committee.
- Participation in the Championships of the USA will be accepted and should be sent to the Men's Program Administrator.

II. Qualification: Pan American Games

- Competition at the Pan American Games will be from an all-around compulsory exercise on August 19, 1987 (senior) and all-around optional exercises on the 20th (junior). Event finals for the top 6 per event will be held on August 21.

- The Pan American Games are scheduled for August 1-14, 1987 in Indianapolis, Indiana.

- The entire National Team selected at Championships of the USA will be required to compete in Indianapolis on August 1 to participate in a Pan American Games Training camp. In an effort to field the strongest team possible for the Pan American Games, the entire team will be rotated with selection being made by the number of the Training Camp. Gymnasts will include the Pan American Games compulsory, optional exercises and attitude as demonstrated during training and in accepted competition.

III. Team Selection: Pan American Games Team

- All all-around scores derived from an all-around exercise involving the entire Senior National Team members who participate in the Pan American Games Training Camp will determine the final 11 athletes selected to represent the United States at the 1987 Pan American Games. The All-Around results will consist of the Pan American compulsory exercises and optional.

- Based on the All-Around Score, the top 11 gymnasts in rank order will be invited to participate in the Pan American Games. The seventh man will be the non-competing alternate Pan American Games team member. A tie for sixth will be broken by the highest compulsory All-Around score.

- Replacement of a team member will occur only due to a serious injury.
- Participation in the Pan American Games Team will not be accepted.

IV. Qualification: World Championships/Team

- Competition at the Team will be all-around Olympic compulsory exercises on September 18 and all-around optional exercises on September 19th.
- The World Team Trials for Men are scheduled for September 20-22, 1987 at a site to be determined.
- The National Team (16 members) selected at the Championships of the USA will participate in the World Championships/Team.
- Injury/Team petition should be sent to the Men's Program Administrator.

V. Team Selection: World Championships/Team

- All all-around scores from the 1987 Championships of the USA will count 30% and the all-around scores from the World Trials will count 70% in determining the individual overall ranking for the World Championships/Team Selection.

- Based on the total all-around scores from the Championships of the USA and Trials, eight (8) gymnasts in rank order will be invited to participate in the World Championships. The seventh man will be the final alternate. World Championships team member (a) will not be competing. The eighth man will be the second alternate. World Championships Team member and will also not be competing. This for sixth and seventh will be broken by the highest

compulsory total from the Champions ranks of the USA and World Trials (1987 + 1986). If there is still a tie, the higher World Trials compulsory score will break the tie.

- Final Trials will be Competition III.
- A postponed gymnast in the Final Trials in order to make the World Championships Team must have a higher score than the other gymnast in Final Trials in representing plus he must have a higher score than the other gymnast 50% and 70% from both competitions.
- Replacement of a team member will occur only due to a serious injury.
- Participation on to the World Championships/Team will not be accepted.

VI. Qualification: USA Olympic Festival

- Competition at the USA Olympic Festival will be on July 12-14, 1987 in Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina.
- Eleven athletes in rank order (including senior development) must will be invited to the competition.
- 12 junior athletes from Winter Training trials in Colorado Springs will also be invited, thus creating the 24 athletes of Olympic Festival.

VII. Qualification: World University Games

- Competition at the World University Games will be on July 16-18, 1987 in Leipzig, Germany.
- 8 athletes (including two non-competing, including alternates) will be selected to make either AFTER the Pan American Games team is selected. This group of 8 will travel to Leipzig.

- Qualification: Other understanding of all international exercises will be required to National Team members as outlined by the Men's Program Committee.

WOMEN'S TEAM 1987 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM SELECTION PROCEDURES

I. WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM

A. Qualification

- Championships of the USA, 1987 will be the selection meet for the World Championships Team. (There will be two World Team Trials Men's)
- Competition at the Championships of the USA will consist of top 10 gymnasts from each Class (the top 10 all-around from 1986 Championships of USA for a total of 20 gymnasts).
- Competition at Championships of the USA will be all-around State Compulsory and All-Around optional exercises, 50% Optional.
- If less than 20 gymnasts enter the Championships of the USA, explanation will be made in the following order:
 - Agreement injury petition.
 - US Olympic (senior) meet in Championships of USA.

USGF REPORT

- B. Injury petitions for Championships of the USA will be accepted for review by the WFC if a gymnast can reasonably show through past meet results with current rules and compulsory that, if she had been able to compete she would have qualified.

E. WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS TRAINING SQUAD AND TEAM DEFINITIONS

- A. World Championships Training Squad shall consist of #1 thru #8 from the results the Championships of the USA.
- B. World Championships Team shall be the top eight (8) gymnasts.
- C. Gymnast 1 thru 8 will be the top petitioners in the International dual meets prior to the World Championships. These competitors will help determine the top (8) starting positions and also the rank order of the top (8) alternates. Final determination will be made by the World Championships head coach, two assistant coaches, two judges assigned to the World Championships, and the Athlete Representative. The World Championships Team Captain will be named by the head coach who will complete Item B.1 thru B.8.
- D. Injury petitions into the World Championships Team will be accepted for consideration by the WFC for those who have not competed in the Championships of the USA. If then evidence based on previous competition experience and placement with current rules and compulsory can be furnished beyond a reasonable doubt it have qualified for the World Championships Team higher than the fourth (4) place finisher through the established qualifying procedures. Petitions are in addition to the original eight (8).
- E. If, at the determination of the World Championships Training Staff (World Championships Team Head Coach, two assistant coaches, two judges assigned to the World Championships, and the Athlete Representative), any one or more of the eight (8) World Championships Team athletes do not meet the criteria listed below, they may be replaced by any gymnast on the training squad.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM CRITERIA

- The ability to perform full optional and compulsory routines.
- Freedom from injury.
- Competitive consistency through trial and error, competitions during training in any other competition as designated by the training staff.
- Mental readiness.
- Physiological readiness.
- Proper attitude, team support and spirit.

WOMEN'S INTERAMERICAN GAMES SELECTION PROCEDURES

1. PAN AMERICAN TEAM

A. Qualification

- Championships of the USA competition consisting of top 14 gymnasts from each Clinic plus the top 4 Seniors from the 1984 Championships of the USA for a total of 34 gymnasts.
- Competition at Championships of the USA will be All-Around Elite Compulsory and All-Around optional exercises (1979 Compulsory - 1980 optional).
- The All-Around scores from the Championships of the USA will count as 50% in determining an individual's overall final ranking.
- If less than 34 gymnasts enter the Championships of the USA replacements will be made to the following order:
 - Approved injury petition.
 - US Olympic (injury, meet in Championships of the USA).

- B. Injury petitions for Championships of the USA will be accepted for consideration by the WFC if a gymnast can reasonably show through past meet results with current rules and compulsory that, if she had been able to compete she would have qualified.

II. PAN AMERICAN TEAM SELECTION

- Injury petitions will be accepted for consideration by the WFC for the Championships of the USA.
- Based on the combined total AA scores from Championships of the USA, eight (8) gymnasts in rank order will be invited to participate in the Pan American Games. All eight gymnasts will compete in a final international competition prior to the Pan American Games to help determine the participants. Final determination will be made by the Pan American Coach, the Australian coach(es), Pan American judges, and the athlete representatives.
- According to the United States Olympic Committee's Technical Regulations, seven (7) gymnasts in the official team size.
- Replacement of a team member will occur only due to serious injury.
- Petition into the 1985 Pan American Team will be accepted for consideration by the WFC only in the case of illness or injury which prevented the gymnast from competing in or finishing the Championships of the USA. The gymnast must have been #1 or #2 in a trial of the Clinics or must have been a member of the 1984 World Championships Team, where she ranked in either the top (8) eight individual events or the top (8) All-Around. Any approved petition will be in addition to the top (8) eight All-Around.

USGF RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS 1987 PAN AMERICAN GAMES SELECTION PROCEDURES

1. Qualification

- Championships of the USA.
- All athletes must be USA citizens and registered athletic members with the USGF prior to the competition.
- Qualification to the USGF Rhythmic Championships of the USA is through State and Regional Championships Meets.
- Injury petitions to participate in Championships of the USA will be accepted for review by the USGF/US National Program Administrator, National Program Committee Director, and the respective Regional Director.
- A gymnast who was a member of the USA delegation for the former all-around competitions at the 1985 Pan American Championships may be selected to the 1987 Championships of the USA without qualifying at a State or Regional Championship Meet.
- The 1987 USGF Rhythmic Championships of the USA are scheduled to take place April 1-4, 1987.
- Based on the all-around results from the 1987 Championships of the USA, in rank order the top eight (8) senior gymnasts will qualify into the Final Trials.
- Final Trials
 - The Final Trials are scheduled to take place in June 27-28, 1987 or July 17-18 (U.S. Olympic Festival).
 - Competitions at the Trials will be a Yearly all-around competition. Each gymnast will be required to compete in all four events on both days.
- Team Selection
 - The all-around scores from Championships of the USA and each day of all-around competitions from the Trials will all count. 50% in determining an individual's overall final placing (1979-1984).
 - Based on the combined total all-around scores from Championships of the USA and the Trials (in significant amount), the top four (4) gymnasts in each event will be selected to attend the Pan American Games Training Camp.
 - Approved (4) is understood by the USGF that four (4) gymnasts will comprise the USA Rhythmic Gymnastics Delegation, athlete delegates to the 1987 Pan American Games. Three (3) of these gymnasts will compete and one (1) gymnast will serve as the official observer.
 - Calculation of score for gymnasts unable to complete Final Trials due to injury.
 - The procedures outlined are for determining a gymnast's score from the Trials competition if she is unable to complete the second day of competition.

Continued on page 42

PRODUCT UPDATE

Ideal For Fall

Jump into Fall with this classic white sweatshirt. Embroidered with the words "USA" in red and "Gymnastics" in blue, this durable sweatshirt will make a perfect gift for you or your favorite gymnastics fan.

This versatile fleecewear is machine washable and available in Adult & Youth sizes for only \$22.95 (Price includes shipping and handling).

See page 46 to order your sweatshirt today!



Alpha Factor Announces A Shirt You'll Flip Over

This sporty new T-shirt from Alpha Factor has colorful gymnastic graphics printed on the back and the Alpha Factor logo on the front pocket area. Available in many lively colors, it's perfect to wear after competitions, at school or anytime. The design is screen-printed, so "peeling" won't be a problem. Available in long sleeves or sleeveless, they're both made in the USA.



The long sleeved T-shirt, available in white, grey and light blue, has ALPHA FACTOR printed on one sleeve. The retail price is \$14.00 for adult sizes and \$12.00 for child sizes. The sleeveless is perfect for warm summer weather and comes in colors to match the season: purple, cream, aqua, fluorescent coral, grey and light blue. The adult sizes retail for \$9.00 and the child sizes for \$6.00.

For more information write:
Alpha Factor - Dept. US-T
PO Box 6246 - Valley View
Road
York, PA 17406-0246



Tiger's Gel Running Shoe Makes Impressive Debut

Asia: Tiger's new GT-II running shoe, the first athletic shoe marketed in America to use built-in silicone gel to absorb shock, is enjoying a spectacularly successful USA debut.

The volume of both pre-delivery orders and sales since the product was available in stores has been remarkably high for a new athletic shoe in the upper price bracket. The GT-II retails for about \$85.

"The gel concept generated widespread advance interest among runners and others in the athletic community and gave us an excellent springboard to launch the product in this country," Kevin Mahoney, National Sales Manager for Asia Tiger Corp. explained. "Opening sales have been so strong that supplies in many stores are being rapidly depleted and, in some cases, completely sold out."

Gymnastics Receives Boost

Amateur gymnastics will receive special financial support this year as a result of a national marketing program by Champion Spark Plug Company.

The program is designed to upgrade the awareness of amateur athletics and to build a stronger corps of athletes who will be preparing to qualify and compete in the 1996 Olympic Games.

Each time a consumer buys a package of Champion spark plugs he or she will have the opportunity to instruct Champion to donate \$1 to the U.S. Gymnastics Federation or one of 16 other amateur athletic organizations. Some 100,000 retail outlets are involved in the promotion.

The program begins on August 28, 1995, and ends on Nov. 3, 1996. It is part of the company's "America's Best" marketing position, established earlier this year.

This fall, Champion will use an extensive schedule of network television and print advertising to support its amateur athletics contribution offer, specifically telling Americans, "We'll donate a dollar in your name to US amateur athletics when you buy a set of Champion Copper Plus plugs."

SPONSORS UPDATE



ADDS GYMNASTICS

Dodge Junior Olympic Program Is Hot!

With the beginning of the 1987 United States Gymnastics Federation junior Olympic competitive season, the Dodge Division of Chrysler is ready to help you promote your upcoming meets. Best of all, it's free!

Dodge is a national sponsor of the USGF's Junior Olympic program. That sponsorship means that every meet director of a USGF age group competition will receive 100 four-color posters and a variety of promotional materials.

Chemical Bank Has Unique Offer

If you've received a solicitation from Chemical Bank's Visa card service recently, take a close look at the application, and think seriously about signing up — you could be returning dollars back to United States Gymnastics Federation's state and regional gymnastics programs!

Chemical Bank is test-mailing 20,000 Visa card applications to USGF members around the country. If you fill out the application, return it to Chemical Bank and are approved for receiving a Visa credit card, your state will help bring revenue in for your state and national USGF programs.

If the first test mailing of 20,000 proves successful, Chemical Bank will send applications to the USGF's total adult membership base, increasing the potential dollars that the bank will return back into the sport.

The one and only hitch is that the USGF doesn't have a say on whether or not your application will be approved. Chemical Bank will approve the applications based solely on their standard credit criteria. USGF membership doesn't guarantee that your application will be approved.

But every dollar and every attempt counts, so keep your sport in mind as you consider the opportunity.

New USGF Marketing Logo Unveiled



U.S. GYMNASTICS FEDERATION

A new family of logos will soon appear in United States Gymnastics Federation materials, television signage and communications programs. The new marks are designed to give our sport and organization a more visible presence in the marketplace — especially when used by sponsors.

The three logos — stylized American flags with silhouettes of gymnasts from all three disciplines (women's and men's artistic and rhythmic gymnastics) will reproduce better in a variety of sizes and mediums than the current USGF logo. That logo — the familiar circle containing three gymnasts and a flag — is now the official seal of the Federation and will continue to be used on awards and in official correspondence.

For more information about the new mark, contact the USGF's marketing and communication department. Ask for Kathy Brown.

Potato Board Boosts Women's Team

The newest United States Gymnastics Federation sponsor officially came on board this summer, and the women's team will benefit tremendously.

The Potato Board, based in Denver, Colorado, has become an official sponsor of the USGF and the women's U.S. National Team. The Potato Board is the promotional and educational arm of America's potato growers. The sponsorship will help spread the word on the nutritional benefits locked inside this most delicious source of complex carbohydrates.

Rich Kennedy, director of corporate sponsorships for the USGF, said the group plans to use members of the national team in personal appearances and media interviews to reach primarily women and young children with the good nutritional news about the potato.

"We're extremely pleased to have The Potato Board as the newest member of our sponsorship family," said Mike Jacki, executive director of the USGF. "The group is extremely supportive of our programs and our athletes. And the rights fees generated by the two-year arrangement will help us provide even more training resources and competitive opportunities for the women's elite program."



At first glance, it could have been any international gymnastics meet — there was nervous smiling on the sidelines, girls warming up and hot mow before performing and an expectant audience waiting with cameras poised for the perfect shot.

But this was no ordinary meet, nor really a meet at all. The girls waiting to perform were members of the Arlington (Va.) YMCA Angels Gymnastics Team. Their audience were coaches and gymnasts from the Ludvika Sports Center in Ludvika, Sweden. The Angels performance here was part of a gymnastics exchange program this past March with YMCA gymnastics teams and schools across Denmark and Sweden.

"It was a long time coming and it took a lot of hard work, but this trip has been an incredible experience for these kids," said Head Coach Joe D'Emilio. "It's not just the gymnastics—it's the cultural exchange. Our kids are learning about life here and making friends with kids their own age. I think some of these friendships will last for life."

The trip actually began more than a year ago when D'Emilio began writing letters to YMCAs abroad, proposing such an exchange. Positive responses came from Sweden and Denmark, and then the real footwork began. YMCA sponsorship, garage sales, Christmas bake sales, donations from local businesses and a cartwheel-a-thon amounted to \$5,000 of the necessary \$7,000 to make the trip. Parents, gymnasts and coaches con-

YMCA GYMNASTS TRADE CUSTOMS & CARTWHEELS

By Amanda Tiffany
Assistant Coach, Arlington YMCA Angels



tributed the rest. After seven months of preparation, we were on our way.

After a bus ride to New York, money exchange at JFK airport and three hours of waiting, 20 gymnasts, four coaches and three chaperones finally boarded the flight to Copenhagen, Denmark. Many of the gymnasts were the first in their families to travel outside the United States and many had never flown on an airplane before. Sleep came easily for some, but for others the excitement of flying over foreign lands kept them wide awake.

We had little idea what to expect when we arrived—the cost of postage and telephone calls limited communication with our Scandinavian hosts. Consequently, we were constantly plagued by 20 gymnasts, usually all at once, about what we were doing next. There's a certain amount of freedom in being able to honestly say "Gee, sorry, but I don't know—I guess we'll have to wait

and see." But we were pleasantly surprised at every turn. Our hosts were not only gracious and warm, they were very well organized. They arranged our days, scheduled our transportation and provided time and space for our workouts.

Our full day of travel—counting time changes—with only cut naps made for a rather sleep arrival in Copenhagen. From there we took a bus to the small town of Næstved, Denmark. Our host families were as nervous as we were, but the initial trepidation of staying with families did not last long. During our three-day stay, gymnasts, coaches and hosts toured the city, attended the wedding of Mogens Hansen, (Denmark's premier football (soccer) star) and performed at a local school. Our performance was actually four different performances: all floor exercise. Students at the Danish school performed on floor, vault, and mini-

tramp, and their elite women's team finished the show.

From Næstved we flew to Stockholm, a strikingly beautiful city resting on 14 islands in the Baltic Sea. One can feel the history here, sensing the time that has settled on buildings and fingers as corridors. We stayed here in a youth hostel across a bridge from the main city, spending the evening window shopping in Stockholm's "old town"—a series of pedestrian-only, narrow cobblestone streets.

The next day we spent touring, then traveling by train to Ludvika, Sweden. Here the YMCA hosts provided exactly what we needed—two days of workouts, with a little nightgearing, cross-country skiing and swimming thrown in. We swam out with and performed for the Ludvika gymnasts, and they, in turn, showed us their town. The town is small but picturesque, as is most everything in this country. The Ludvika Sports Center houses weightlifting, track and field and gymnastics equipment, as well as a 50-meter indoor swimming pool. On our first afternoon there, some of our group went cross-country skiing for the first time.

We saw skiing of a different kind in the town of Falun. This little town is bidding for the 1992 Winter Olympics, and our hosts took us to the top of the 150-meter ski jump. The view was breathtaking and scary. From here we watched a snowstorm slowly overtake the sun, and saw, beneath the clouds, the entire Ljungby Sport Center complex. In addition to figure skating, cross-

country skiing, and speed skating facilities, the Lagnet Sport Center in Falun boasts one of the best gyms in the country, home of the Swedish National Gymnastics Team. For six hours we threw flips off the mini-tramp, Comanec's into the free-fall-deep pit, and split leaps on any one of the four balance beams. Needless to say, both gymnasts and coaches were exhausted by the time we were finished.

From Falun we took a night train to Göteborg, letting the train's rocking motion put us to sleep. We caught an early morning ferry from Göteborg to Frederikshavn in Jutland, Denmark, and from there a train and bus to the YMCA-run Hellebjerg school in Juelandside. The students at Hellebjerg learn the principles of coaching in football, volleyball and a number of other sports. The Angels attended class with Hellebjerg students, teaching English as well as learning "expressive" gymnastic routines — gymnastic style that we would consider more modern dance than gymnastics. Many of these dances portray a theme, and contain little or no tumbling. They performed for the school during our final night there, then taught one of their routines to the group. The exchange that followed will likely be remembered more than the gymnastics — American and Danish students laughing, talking, and socializing as though they'd known each other for years, rather than mere hours.

Two of our final three days were spent in Gyldrup, near Herring, where we again performed at the local YMCA. Here

we were treated to a lesson in rhythmic gymnastics, and taught the Danish a little bit of American jazz. By this time, staying with families was exciting rather than scary. We were friends from the start, the short length of our stay giving these friendships a sense of immediacy. We spent our first afternoon with our families, regrouping that night for the Kammeratstake Aftern — this YMCA-sponsored party that is held 15 times a year. The idea is to provide an alcohol-free environment where young people (and some not so young) can go to see a show and dance until dawn. The Americans made their mark to be sure — singing in English was the first groove, breakdancing to "Living in America" was the clincher.

Leaving for Copenhagen by train from Herring was particularly sad. This was our final trip in Denmark, and suddenly lugging three suitcases and four carry-ons didn't seem so bad when the alternative was going home. In Copenhagen we were met by a representative from the KFUM (YMCA), who took our luggage and left us to spend our final afternoon on foot, exploring the city in groups, buying last-minute presents and generally soaking up the sights and sounds. Copenhagen has the same old world look as most Scandinavian cities, although it compares in size to Washington, D.C. As in Stockholm, there's a pedestrian-only shopping area, which we had no trouble finding. With typical Danish friendliness, a local street vendor of

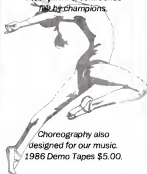
forced me his zoom lens to photograph the scene.

From the small town of Naarved to historic Stockholm and Copenhagen, we were treated so well. The Scandinavians people are warm and generous, truly as enthusiastic about our visit as we were. They shared their homes, their food and their customs, giving us an experience we will long remember. We have

already begun plans to return the favor, to host our Scandinavian friends here in the Washington, D.C. area next year. And in 1987, the Arlington Angels might just be learning Japanese, Italian, or Spanish — we've already received offers from YMCA's in Japan, Italy, and Venezuela to come visit and perform. Perhaps we've started a new ambassador program for the YMCA.

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OPEN FLOOR

Continued from page 8

2. One person should be assigned the task of collecting the form from each coach and distributing them at the judges meeting. Judges would be required to read the forms, and they would probably also want to check on questionable skill ratings. In the case of a large meet, the forms could be collected ahead of time and typed out to eliminate duplication.

3. Also under this proposal, judges would make their score sheets (or a photocopy) for a team available to the coach of that team following each competition. We believe that good judges who have learned to write down the necessary information on each routine would see the potential value of such communication. This would provide coaches with information on how their gymnasts' routines are being evaluated, and might provide them with some guidance on what they might list on their forms described in the first part of this proposal.

Precedent for parts one and two of this proposal was established at the 1988 Big 10 meet, where the coaches compiled a list

of uncommon skills and the judges voted unanimously to accept the list. Seven full teams competed in the Big 10, yet the list totaled only one and one-half pages. Judges agreed that it seemed to be an excellent procedure. In regard to part three, many judges already share their score sheets with coaches who ask, and it seems to us that most coaches who ask are not interested in discovering judging errors, but rather in discovering ways to improve their gymnasts' routines.

What are the potential outcomes of this proposal?

1. There would be increased communication between coaches and judges.

2. The education of judges (and coaches) would continue throughout each season.

3. There would be less apprehension on the part of coaches about judges missing things important to their gymnasts' scores.

4. There would be less apprehension on the part of judges, as well, about missing important

skills or requirements.

5. There would be fewer judging mistakes, therefore more accurate scores.

6. There would be no need to determine the major refinements needed in the present rule - and they are major - because it would be dropped.

We believe that if coaches and judges view this proposal as an opportunity to increase communication and education in a cooperative atmosphere, as opposed to a battleground atmosphere, then the quality of gymnastics judging will improve, as will coach-judge relationships.

John Scherer
Meet Director,
NCAA Championships

Jeff Johnson
Assistant Meet Director,
NCAA Championships

Note - The NCAA Gymnastics Committee has returned the present rule for all collegiate competition up to the team finals, but has eliminated protests from the team finals of the NCAA Championships. The Committee has also supported the pre-meet communication described in parts one and two of this proposal. Details will be forthcoming from that Committee.

USGF REPORT

Continued from page 37

EE. Provisions

- Provision to enter the Final Trials will be accepted with regard to injury or representing the USA as international competitor during the same time period as the Championships of the USA. Provisions are limited to the top three (3) internationally ranked gymnasts only.
- If a qualified gymnast is not able to compete in the Final Trials due to injury or representing the USA as international competitor then up to the Final Trials, she may petition to be ranked in the second Trials ranking only if she is one of three USA internationally ranked gymnasts from 1988 or one of the top three nationally ranked gymnasts from the 1989 Championships of the USA.
- Calculation of score for second Trials ranking for accepted petitioned gymnast:
 - An accepted petitioned gymnast entering the Final Trials without a

second ranking score from Championships of the USA shall have her score calculated as follows:

- The all-around score obtained from the first day of competition will substitute for the Championships of the USA score.
- The score obtained in U.S.A. shall be added to the total two day all-around Trials score in order to obtain the gymnast's second Trials ranking score.
- An accepted petitioned gymnast unable to compete in the Final Trials shall have her second ranking score determined by multiplying by three (3) her score from Championships of the USA.
- Calculation of score for gymnasts unable to complete Final Trials due to an injury:
 - The procedure are for determining

a gymnast's score from the Trials competition if unable to complete the second day of competition.

- If a gymnast is not able to complete the first event, her score from day one of the Trials shall be multiplied by two (2).
- If a gymnast is able to complete only one event, the score she obtained in the first event will be multiplied by four (4).
- If a gymnast is able to complete only two (2) events, the scores she obtained in the first two events will be added together and multiplied by two (2).
- If a gymnast is able to complete only three (3) events, the scores she obtained in the first three events will be added together and divided by three (3). Thus, only three event scores will three to added to the scores obtained in the first three events.



U.S. GYMNASTICS FEDERATION

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General Points of Information

1. The test book for the Certification Course is the USGF GYM-NASTICS SAFETY MANUAL. This instruction manual is to be purchased and studied prior to course participation
2. The course will take approximately one hour, including the test
3. The Course fee is \$40.00 (retail cost is \$25.00)
4. Certification is good for first years

Dates, Times and Locations will all be listed in USA GYMNASTICS and USGF TECHNIQUE. They can also be checked by calling the USGF Department of Safety and Education at (202) 455-4563

September 24-26, 1988 - During the USGF Congress - St. Louis, Missouri

1. Saturday September 24th - 10:00-4:00 PM
Admission: Adults \$10.00 / Children \$5.00 / Seniors \$5.00
Course Director: Don Simmons - (314) 961-0200
Test Center: (314) 961-0200
2. Sunday September 25th - 10:00-4:00 PM
Admission: Adults \$10.00 / Children \$5.00 / Seniors \$5.00
Course Director: Don Simmons - (314) 961-0200
Test Center: (314) 961-0200
3. Monday September 26th - 10:00-4:00 PM
Admission: Adults \$10.00 / Children \$5.00 / Seniors \$5.00
Course Director: Don Simmons - (314) 961-0200
Test Center: (314) 961-0200

Application to sit for the test is open to all participants in the USGF Congress and is located in the USGF Congress Registration Building, 100 North Main Street, St. Louis, MO 63101
 1. Pretest classes - 10:00-11:00 AM
 2. Course Director: Don Simmons - (314) 961-0200
 3. Test Center: (314) 961-0200
 4. Post-test classes - 11:00-12:00 PM
 5. Course Director: Don Simmons - (314) 961-0200
 6. Test Center: (314) 961-0200

Friday October 1st, 1988

1. 10:00-12:00 PM - 10:00-12:00 PM - 10:00-12:00 PM
Course Director: Don Simmons - (314) 961-0200
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Saturday October 2nd, 1988

1. 10:00-12:00 PM - 10:00-12:00 PM - 10:00-12:00 PM
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Sunday October 3rd, 1988

1. 10:00-12:00 PM - 10:00-12:00 PM - 10:00-12:00 PM
Course Director: Don Simmons - (314) 961-0200
Test Center: (314) 961-0200
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Monday October 4th, 1988

1. 10:00-12:00 PM - 10:00-12:00 PM - 10:00-12:00 PM
Course Director: Don Simmons - (314) 961-0200
Test Center: (314) 961-0200
This course will be tested during the Northeast Congress

Friday October 1st, 1988

1. 10:00-12:00 PM - 10:00-12:00 PM - 10:00-12:00 PM
Course Director: Don Simmons - (314) 961-0200
Test Center: (314) 961-0200
This course will be tested during the Southeast Congress

Saturday October 2nd, 1988

1. 10:00-12:00 PM - 10:00-12:00 PM - 10:00-12:00 PM
Course Director: Don Simmons - (314) 961-0200
Test Center: (314) 961-0200
This course will be tested during the Southwest Congress

Sunday October 3rd, 1988

1. 10:00-12:00 PM - 10:00-12:00 PM - 10:00-12:00 PM
Course Director: Don Simmons - (314) 961-0200
Test Center: (314) 961-0200
This course will be tested during the Northwest Congress

Monday October 4th, 1988

1. 10:00-12:00 PM - 10:00-12:00 PM - 10:00-12:00 PM
Course Director: Don Simmons - (314) 961-0200
Test Center: (314) 961-0200
This course will be tested during the Central Congress

Participation Registration Form

Name: Mr./Mrs./Ms. _____

Address: _____

Telephone: (H) _____ (R) _____

Course Director: _____

Course Location: _____ Date: _____

Organization Represented: _____

If USGF Member, List Type and Number: _____

Form of Payment:

Check _____ Visa _____ Mastercard _____

Name on Card: _____

Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____ Signature: _____

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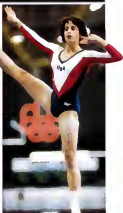
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